FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Soviet Union

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DISARMAMENT & SALT

UN Disarmament Session Continues in New York	AA	1	1/A6
Mondale Speech Criticized [Gerasichev]	AA	1	1/A6
U.S. Propaganda Campaign [Zorin]	AA	1	1/A6
Troyanovskiy on Soviet Proposals [Andronov in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 24 May]	AA	2	1/A7
UN Session Can Make 'Major Contribution' to Disarmament [Stakh in NOVOYE VREMYA 19 May]	AA	3	1/A8
Arms Race Can Be Stopped Despite Opponents of Detente [Yermakov in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 23 May]	AA	6	1/A11

GENERAL

Distrust Among Nations Thwarts Meaningful Peace Efforts [Korionov in PRAVDA 24 May]	A	1	1/A14
Nonalined Coordinating Bureau Deliberates in Havana [Maslennikov in PRAVDA 24 May]	A	3	1/B2
West's 'Accusations' Against Soviet Maritime Fleet Hit [Stoklitskiy]	A	4	1/B3
International Congress of Resistance Fighters Opens	A	5	1/B4

UNITED STATES

Gromyko Meets With Cyrus Vance in New York	B	1	1/B6
U.S. Continues Efforts To Strengthen Forces in Europe	B	1	1/B6
Pentagon Exploits Carter Inconsistency To Increase Funds [Gudkov in NOVOYE VREMYA 19 May]	B	2	1/B7
U.S. Bulletin Notes USSR Leads in Economic Development	B	5	1/B10
Bergland Describes 'Very Useful' Agricultural Talks in USSR [Polyakovskiy in SELSKAYA ZHIZN 20 May]	B	6	1/B11
Congress Reaches Agreement on Natural Gas Prices [Yegorov]	B	7	1/B12

CHINA

Malin Assails PRC Position at UN Disarmament Session	C	1	1/B13

EAST EUROPE

Soviet Embassy Statement on Queen's W. Berlin Visit [East Berlin ADN]	D	1	1/B14
Honecker Receives Soviet Amity Delegation [PRAVDA 24 May]	D	1	1/B14
CSSR's Hula Views Cooperation Prior to Brezhnev Visit	D	1	1/B14
Gromyko Meets With CSSR Counterpart in New York	D	2	1/C1
Crishin Tours Sofia; Talks With Officials	D	2	1/C1
Meeting in Sofia Gorkom [MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 21 May]	D	2	1/C1
Talks With Zhivkov [MOSKOVSAKYA PRAVDA 23 May]	D	3	1/C2
Novikov Speaks at Opening of Yugoslav Exhibition	D	4	1/C3

WEST EUROPE & CANADA

Simonyan Hits NATO Nuclear Threshold Concept, Neutron Bomb [PRAVDA 25 May] E 1 1/C4
NATO Defense Planning, Zaire Intervention Hit [Babich in TRUD 23 May] E 4 1/C7
USSR Protests Anti-Soviet Provocations in Vienna E 6 1/C9
Italy Investigates SID-CIA intelligence Links [Malyshev] E 6 1/C9
SFRY Paper Hits Anti-Soviet Remarks by UK General E 7 1/C10
Soviet-British Cooperation Protocol Signed E 7 1/C10

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Khaddam Says Egypt's Foreign Policy Betrays Arab Interests F 1 1/C11
Arab Newspapers Report As-Sadat's 'Repressive' Measures F 1 1/C11
Soviet Support Cited During YAR Group's Visit to Moscow F 2 1/C12
Israeli Shellings Continue in Lebanon; Civilians Injured F 2 1/C12
Arab Students in Israel Protest Discrimination F 2 1/C12
Economic, Trade Relations Between USSR-Sudan Reviewed F 3 1/C13

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Chernenko-Led Delegation Ends Visit to Greece [PRAVDA 24 May] G 1 1/C14
Athens Talks [PRAVDA 24 May] G 2 1/D1
Greek Peace Delegation Arrives in Moscow G 2 1/D1
TASS Reports on Opening of AKEL Congress G 2 1/D1

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Zaire, Belgium, France Responsible for Shaba Massacres [Kulik] H 1 1/D3
Soviet Group's Condemnation H 2 1/D4
European, African Reaction H 2 1/D4
Belgian Statement H 4 1/D6
U.S. Admission H 4 1/D6
NATO Countries' Intervention [Ariyevich] H 4 1/D6
Neighboring States Threatened H 5 1/D7
Attempt To Recolonize Africa [Kudryavtsev] H 6 1/D8
Ponomarev Meets Zimbabwe Patriotic Front Delegation H 8 1/D10
Problems of Africa Linked to World Peace, Detente [Kulik] H 8 1/D10
Ministry Hosts African Liberation Day Reception H 10 1/D12
Nigerian Leader Praises Soviet Support of African States H 10 1/D12

SOUTH ASIA

West Begins Antisocialist Tirade After Afghan Coup [Volskiy in NOVOYE VREMYA No 21] J 1 1/D13
Economic, Trade Contracts Strengthen USSR-Afghan Ties [Baykov in PRAVDA 24 May] J 3 1/E1

INDOCHINA

Titov Greets SRV-USSR Friendship Group on Anniversary L 1 1/E2

NORTHEAST ASIA

PRC Promotes Japan's Militarism During Generals' Visit M 1 1/E3
LDP Leaders Ask Resolution of Issues Before Japan-PRC Talks M 1 1/E3
Japan Serves as U.S. 'Middleman' in Ties With ASEAN [Kharkov] M 1 1/E3

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Aliyev Comments on Language Teaching in Azerbaijan R 1 1/E5
[BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 19 May]
Moskvin Comments on Reaction to Tbilisi Trial R 2 1/E6
Shcherbitskiy Attends Obkom plenum in Zhitomir R 3 1/E7
Briefs: Award to Writer R 3 1/E7

AGRICUTURAL AFFAIRS

Weather, Crop Developments in Mid-May Reported ? 1 1/E8
[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 24 May]

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

Armed Forces Personnel Discuss Brezhnev's Books V 1 1/E9
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 May]
Antisubmarine Ship's Mediterranean Exercise Noted V 1 1/E9
[Kontiyevskiy in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 May]

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UN DISARMAMENT SESSION CONTINUES IN NEW YORK

Mondale Speech Criticized

LD252236Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] The special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament continues its work in New York. Our correspondent Vladimir Gerasichev reports: The very first days of the work of the session have shown the deep concern of the delegates for the unrestrained increase in military spending. Palldin, the Swedish prime minister, said that, in the opinion of his government, it is necessary to stop the development and creation of all types of nuclear armaments. He stressed that Sweden is particularly concerned over the creation of nuclear weapons. Consalvi, the Venezuelan foreign minister, welcomed the Soviet Union's decision to associate itself with the international treaty banning nuclear weapons in Latin America. The destructive arms race constitutes a threat to mankind's very existence, he stressed.

The speech by U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, the head of the American delegation, evoked a strange impression. He tried to justify the intensification of the arms race by the United States and other NATO countries by references to the mythical Soviet threat. This speech is assessed here as a blatant attempt to baffle the world public to cover up the NATO countries' plans to increase armaments and armed forces. The American vice president's speech was given at a time when the talks between the Soviet Union and the United States on a new agreement on nuclear arms limitation, to which the representatives of many countries attach special importance, have entered a decisive phase.

The Soviet Union's important and specific initiatives on disarmament are well known in the United Nations. In Comrade Brezhnev's speeches on the eve of the special session, a clear and specific program for disarmament, which the Soviet Union is prepared to carry out, was put forward. These proposals are being assessed by many delegates and political observers, who have come here from all continents, as yet another confirmation of the Soviet Union's consistent and persistent struggle for disarmament.

U.S. Propaganda Campaign

LD260710Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 26 May 78 LD

[Text] Our special correspondent Valentin Zorin reports from New York: The special session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament problems continues its work here. Heads of states and governments, foreign ministers representing their countries ascend the rostrum one after another. Their speeches are devoted to the problems of halting the arms race, which is turning the world into a powder magazine and swallowing up huge wealth--in our day and age, much more money is spent on arms manufacturing than even during the years of World War II. The session's delegates await with great interest the speech of Comrade Gromyko, USSR foreign minister, scheduled for today.

As opposed to the representatives of some countries who fervently advocate a halt of the arms race and simultaneously call for increases in the military potential of NATO, the Soviet Union pursues a consistent and principled struggle against increases of military arsenals.

Having opened the editions of American papers published today, I found significant and eloquent details.

The papers are full of articles and commentaries which it is difficult to assess other than as attempts to poison the atmosphere around the special session of the General Assembly, to foment tension. The results of the latest public opinion poll are published here; they bear witness to the fact that three out of every four Americans favor the relaxation of international tension, andan improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations.

Neither the bellicose statements of some Washington figures, nor the clamorous newspaper commentaries reflect the mood of millions of people who hope that real steps to solve the vital problems of modern times will be taken at the present session of the General Assembly.

Troyanovskiy on Soviet Proposals

LD251545Y Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 May 78 p 9 LD

[Report by correspondent Iona Andronov: "The United Nations: At the Start of the Disarmament Session"]

[Text] The UN General Assembly special session on disarmament has begun in New York. It is the first time in UN history that this kind of session, devoted to the most acute present-day problem of mankind, has been convened. Considering the exceptional importance of this session, according to an announcement made here, over 70 prominent statesmen and foreign ministers from big and small countries on five continents intend to participate. Our government delegation is headed by A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, who has arrived here.

"At the UN disarmament session the Soviet delegation proposes a detailed examination of the clear-cut program expounded by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev on preventing the threat of a thermonuclear catastrophe and curbing the arms race," O.A. Troyanovskiy, member of the Soviet delegation and USSR permanent representative at the United Nations, told your LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent. "Our proposals envisage the cessation by all states of the production of all types of nuclear weapons. We also advocate a halt to and a ban on all other types of mass destruction weapons. We urge a general renunciation of the creation of neutron bombs. We are against the creation of highly destructive conventional arms. We want all powers that are members of the UN Security Council or their military allies to simultaneously abandon the expansion of armies and the buildup of conventional arms. Our ultimate aim is general and total disarmament under effective international control and the strengthening of peace and the people's security. If the UN disarmament session uses this as a guide, the process of political detente would be supplemented by military detente and the colossal funds saved as a result of disarmament could be used in the solution of global economic tasks--the struggle against hunger, poverty, epidemics and disasters resulting from floods, droughts and other lethal natural tragedies."

On the eve of the session, UN experts calculated that almost $1 million is spent every minute on the manufacture of weapons. This totals $400 billion per year. At the present rate of arms buildup, worldwide appropriations for weapons may reach the nightmarish figure of $1 trillion per year by the end of the 20th century.

But, a week before the opening of the session, American congressmen voted, as if on purpose, an additional $3 billion to the Pentagon's $100 billion budget to create a reserve arsenal of the notorious neutron bombs. Add to that the White House's $200 million order for the latest "enhanced explosive effect" nuclear bomb, which has just been announced. And only 2 days before the UN session the U.S. administration's "Weapons Exports Bureau" doubly delighted the greedy manufacturers of bombs, shells, missiles and guns: Their foreign sales, which totaled $12 billion last year, will increase by $1.5 billion this year, with Washington's approval. [paragraph continues]

The United States has already received a request from the South African racists for the sale of components for nuclear and neutron bombs. The Peking militarists are pricing American military equipment, and White House adviser Z. Brzezinski took along a high-ranking Pentagon representative on his recent trip to China. It was no accident that the Maoists in the United Nations refused point-blank to participate in the disarmament session preparatory committee. What about the American delegation's position at the session?

I called the newly appointed member of the U.S. delegation Averell Harriman--the 86-year-old patriarch of American diplomacy--in Washington. Alas, his secretary said that he would not talk to journalists. Why not? Apparently, a "check" was being conducted. It turned out that "Security Service Agents" were checking the loyalty of this venerable politician, respected by all, and even interrogating his neighbors and acquaintances, including the celebrated feature writer Buchwald: "Does Harriman drink a lot and is he faithful to his wife?" Harriman's wife's comment was: "It is ridiculous and stupid." Buchwald's derisive comment was: "If you examine Harriman, he looks, in my opinion, downright suspicious....after all, he advocates peaceful coexistence with the Russians, and he is against war, and this, as we know, is clearly a communist course."

You can easily tell from the police blotters the policy favored by the majority of Americans. On 27 May 10,000 peace advocates from various U.S. cities, will hold a procession outside the UN headquarters in New York. The demonstration is called a "march for disarmament." The coordinator of the demonstration in New York, public figure Sandy Fisher, told me about the purpose of the people's march:

"We are all appealing to the UN disarmament session delegates to condemn the arms race and renounce the use of the neutron weapon. The demonstration will be led by such popular people as the singer Peter Seeger, the artists Ossie Davis and Congressman John Conyers. There will also be representatives of defenders of peace from distant countries, including Australia.

The peace vigil outside the UN building will echo nationwide demands for the formulation of concrete recommendations which can soon be implemented in practical international agreements at the forthcoming world disarmament conference.

UN SESSION CAN MAKE 'MAJOR CONTRIBUTION' TO DISARMAMENT

LD2513277 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 21, 19 May 78 pp 6-7 LD

[G. Stakh article: "First Time in UN History"]

[Text] The UN General Assembly [UNGA] special session on disarmament opens in New York 23 May. For 5 weeks delegates from 149 states will discuss a most urgent and perturbuing problem of the present day: how to curb the arms race? There will be a broad exchange of opinions at the session on ways to resolve disarmament issues--an exchange to which all the organization's member states can contribute, regardless of their size and military might.

Several important international agreements curbing the arms race in a number of directions have been concluded in recent years, as a result of the energetic actions of the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries and all peace-loving forces. The arms race, however, has not yet been halted. Military arsenals are continuing to be enlarged, and new lethal kinds of arms are being created. This process, if not stopped, could have catastrophic consequences for the people. Therefore, there can be no further delay in resolving disarmament issues.

The Soviet Union is going to the special session with a detailed and specific program of measures to end the arms race and for disarmament. It has been expounded in a whole series of documents submitted by the USSR, jointly with the other socialist countries, to the UNGA special session preparatory committee. Important new initiatives were set forth in L.I. Brezhnev's speech at the 18th Komsomol Congress on 25 April.

The Soviet Union believes that the time has come to think of ending the further quantitative and qualitative growth of the arms and armed forces of states possessing great military potential. It calls for discussion of a specific action program for the immediate future: to end production of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction; to end the creation of new types of conventional arms with great destructive force; and to renounce enlarging armies and increasing the conventional arms of powers which are permanent members of the Security Council, as well as of countries linked with them by military agreements.

Of course, it is not a simple matter to reach agreement on implementing such a program, and therefore it would be possible to start by ending production of nuclear weapons. Since the chief danger to peace stems from the increasing nuclear arms race, measures directed toward nuclear disarmament must be the central focus of states' efforts. The UNGA must promote the start of specific talks on this problem.

The session is also faced with examining ways of averting the threat of nuclear war. The elimination of the means of waging war would, of course, be the most effective measure. However, because nuclear weapons have not yet been excluded from arsenals, it is necessary to seek to strengthen the political and international guarantees of states' security. The speediest conclusion of a world treaty on the nonuse of force in international relations, a draft of which has been submitted by the USSR for UN consideration, would be an important step on this path. In keeping with its principled policy of reducing the threat of nuclear war, the Soviet Union has declared that it is against the use of nuclear weapons. Only extraordinary circumstances, aggression by a nuclear power against the Soviet country or its allies, could force the USSR to resort to this extreme means of self-defense. The USSR has taken this major political actional unilaterally, reckoning that it will set an example for others. This step also assures those states which do not possess nuclear weapons that this kind of weapon will not be used against them.

The question of further steps to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons will undoubtedly be an important topic of discussion at the session. In keeping with its principled policy of supporting states which seek to prevent the appearance of these weapons on their territories, the Soviet Union has announced its decision to sign additional Protocol II to the treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America and thereby assume the obligation to observe the status of the nuclear-free zone in this region.

The UNGA will also have a profound influence on the question of prohibiting the creation of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction.

Taking account of the broad public movement agains the U.S. plans to produce neutron weapons and to deploy them in Western Europe, the UNGA must make an effort to prevent the realization of these plans. The Soviet Union has suggested to the West that agreement be reached on mutual renunciation of the production of neutron weapons before it is too late.

The task of ending the arms race and of disarmament demands the accelerated conclusion of the talks, which are already being held at various levels, on a whole series of questions in this area. The session must make decisions which give a new impetus to their successful conclusion.

The reaching of agreement between the USSR and the United States on the limitation of strategic offensive arms would be of special significance. This agreement would set limits for the most powerful and destructive types of weapons. It can and must be concluded in the very near future.

The conclusion of the talks between the USSR, the United States and Britain on a total ban of nuclear weapons tests would be an important step. The Soviet Union has recently launched a number of initiatives, making it possible to "unravel" the difficulties which have existed and to reach agreement quickly on the conclusion of a corresponding international treaty.

The Soviet-U.S. talks on the question of banning the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons are continuing. It is necessary to conclude these talks as quickly as possible. The Soviet Union will continue to make every effort toward this.

The talks on the reduction of armed forces and arms in central Europe are being conducted too slowly. The Soviet Union is seeking to insure that the level of the military forces of West and East in this region is considerably reduced without detriment to the security of either side. This would ease military tension in Europe, where it is particularly great and dangerous. The special session must also advocate that regional measures of military detente be taken also in other regions of the world. Europe is not an exception in this respect.

The successful completion of the talks between the USSR and the United States on the limitation and subsequent reduction of military activity in the Indian Ocean would be a useful contribution to military detente, as would a fruitful outcome to the consultations between them on limiting the international arms trade and supplies of conventional armaments. The urgency of these problems has frequently been stressed by the Soviet side.

The question of reducing armed forces and conventional armaments is a specific task on the international agenda. This has become a real possibility due to the program of practical measures advanced in L.I. Brezhnev's speech at the 18th Komsomol Congress.

The session is to examine and take steps to implement the UNGA decision on the reduction of military budgets, especially those of the permanent members of the Security Council, and on the allocation of part of the funds thus saved to aid developing countries. The realization of this proposal would promote the acceleration of the people's economic and social development.

All the very important provisions cited above should be reflected in the program of actions for disarmament, which is to be elaborated and adopted at the session as a very important component element of its final document. The Soviet Union proceeds from the premise that the program must clearly record the fact that the final aim of UN members' is general and total disarmament under strict and effective international control. The final document of the session is designed to be specific and realistic. It should contain an accurate assessment both of the dangers of the arms race and of disarmament successes and should formulate principles for negotiations and implementing disarmament measures. The action program should define not only general approaches and avenues for limiting the arms race and for disarmament, but should also formulate specific tasks in this area. [paragraph continues]

The forthcoming session should give special attention to the question of convening a world disarmament conference, which the UNGA has already frequently supported. After all the UNGA resolutions, for all their significance, are only recommendations. An actual conference including all states could make effective decisions having binding force for its participants.

The Soviet Union believes it is necessary to seek ways of making more effective use of the United Nations for the solution of disarmament tasks. At the same time it is necessary to display a solicitous attitude toward existing channels which have proved fruitful, specifically the Disarmament Committee. It is essential that all negotiation channels be used more rationally and profitably. Organizational restructurings, even those aimed at the dezocratization of the "mechanism" of negotiations, must not be allowed to harm the negotiations themselves. For all the significance of the organizational forms, the main factor in the attainment of disarmament accords is the political will of the states taking part in the negotiations.

The voice of broad circles of the international public demanding the elimination of the threat of a new war will also be heard at the session. There will be speeches by representatives of over 20 international nongovernment organizations. The preparation for the session has already given rise to a powerful upsurge in the public movement for disarmament. Dozens of international organizations, uniting millions of people in various countries, have held meetings, conferences and gatherings and sent the United Nations statements, letters and petitions demanding the adoption of specific disarmament measures.

The problem which will be the topic of extensive debate at the UN forum worries all people, and the discussions will inevitably reflect the keen political struggle which is being waged around the issues of disarmament. The socialist states are coming to the session with proposals which are shared by the nonalined majority in the United Nations. The Western countries will also present their ideas. Evidently some of them, as before, will try to reduce matters to the adoption of standard decisions and will attempt to restrict themselves to verbal declarations and promises. It must not be forgotten that influential forces opposing disarmament are active in the NATO countries. These forces will undoubtedly want to influence the course of the session.

But given good will and the UN states' desire for cooperation, the session can and must make a major contribution to the struggle to curb the arms race and to advance toward real disarmament measures. The opportunities for this exist. The Soviet Union will do everything incumbent on it to insure that the session is successful.

ARMS RACE CAN BE STOPPED DESPITE OPPONENTS OF DETENTE

LD251457Y Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 May 78 p 3 LD

[NOVOSTI political commentator V. Yermakov article written for SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA: "The Main Issue of Our Time"]

[Text] Mankind is faced with extremely complex problems which it has been struggling to solve for several decades now. The main international problem is how to end the arms race and then how to insure gradual, general and complete disarmament--nuclear and conventional--to exclude war forever from life on earth.

A UN General Assembly special session is meeting in New York to discuss this main problem. This will be the first time since the end of the war that disarmament questions have been raised at such a broad and authoritative international forum, with the participation of representatives of 149 states.

Mankind, which does not have enough bread, is sitting atop mountains of weapons. And every day military arsenals continue to increase. [World] nuclear potential already exceeds 1.3 million bombs of the type which destroyed Hiroshima.

Never before has the world been so packed with weapons. It seems that, as in science fiction novels, they are beginning to live a life of their own and are becoming uncontrollable. At any rate, the West writes and talks too much about the "act of God" which may provoke a thermonuclear catastrophe and about the "tragic combination of circumstances" which could lead to a fatal holocaust. Of course, accidents cannot be totally excluded from life or politics. However, they do not determine the essence of the problem. In the American movie, "Dr Strangelove" a universal conflict is provoked by an insane sergeant, despite the fact that the U.S. authorities are doing everything possible to prevent it. That is the way it is in the movie. But, unfortunately, reality makes the peripeteia of the movie seem virtually idyllic in comparison.

The point is that it is not some irresponsible paranoiac sergeants who intend to use nuclear weapons. Here is what we find, for instance, in an article by Robert Aldridge, prominent American missile specialist, in PROGRESSIVE magazine. The author--we emphasize that he is a specialist on these questions--asserts that the Pentagon has elaborated a "secret strategy" based on the "concept of a first decisive strike," which will make a third world war inevitable. Hence, he says, the U.S. task is primarily to obtain military superiority over the USSR through a new round of the arms race. He even mentions an approximate date. He also indicates specific targets: 25,000 facilities. And it is also well known that an extra $4 billion-plus are being appropriated for the construction of new American military bases along Soviet borders, mainly in Western Europe, and that the NATO Defense Planning Committee, according to GENERAL ANZEIGER, intends this week--note, the week of the opening of the UN General Assembly special session--to return once more to the question of building up the military potential of this aggressive military bloc.

Passions in the West are being fueled to the limit and by no means unintentionally. Every day the bourgeois gutter news media represent our motherland as some kind of "gray wolf," which is ready to pounce on its near and distant neighbors to bring them "under communist rule." The ordinary citizen is bombarded with "forecasts" and "predictions."

On 8 May London's THE DAILY TELEGRAPH went even further--it depicted on its pages a terrible battle scenario which really makes your blood run cold. This is what happens: Russian infantry--on skis and in armored vehicles--crosses the border of Norway in the north. In response the Norwegian Army, without obtaining authorization from the "center," opens fire--the officers have a corresponding royal decree. What fuels this wild fantasy? Whose diseased imagination produces and feeds all these absurdities? It transpires that one Claire Hollingworth learned all this from "unnamed Nowegian military men." They in turn cite "NATO strategists" who "authoritatively assume" that "the Russians may well test NATO's determination and cohesion by attempting limited operations designed to enable them to occupy the north cape." That is how simple it is to "capture and occupy"--without rhyme or reason. But we will not take this abracadabra too seriously--it is just the blatant fantasy, but nothing more, of a woman whom the NATO strategists could easily twist around their little finger, since she is simply incompetent in military matters. But there is also American Admiral Shearer, commander of NATO's southern flank and a professional soldier. He knows what's what. [paragraph continues]

As it turns out, the NATO admiral is no more successful that the above-mentioned lady; at any rate, he paints approximately the same picture, but this time it all takes place not in Norway but in Turkey, Greece and Italy, at which the Soviet tank columns are "aimed"....

In this artificially fueled and stoked nervous atmosphere, where forces hostile to peace are employing alternate threats and intimidation to increase tension and to create a still more dangerous situation than the past cold war--under these conditions some people in the West have lost their heads. The arms race seems to some pessimists to be a fatal inevitability, and they think it is impossible to stop the enemies of detente.

"No!"--The firm, loud voice of the Soviet Union rings out over and over again. The arms race, with all ensuing consequences, can and must be stopped. "...Soviet people have strong nerves," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has said. "They have never panicked. They merely take the necessary measures to defend the country from the threat, and they wage a persistent, consistent struggle for lasting peace and for the reduction of the level of military confrontation, primarily in Europe."

Our country has not threatened and does not threaten anyone. It is preparing neither "shock strike forces" for a "preemptive strike" nor "tank wedges" to subjugate Europe and other continents. Nor is it training exporters of revolution in its "secret schools." The Soviet Union has repeatedly stated, at the highest and most authoritative level, that it is not seeking military superiority. And this must be clear to the most prejudiced people if only because, with the arsenals which have now been accumulated, the concept of superiority becomes meaningless. "Disarmament is the ideal of socialism," V.I. Lenin wrote. In April 1922, in Genoa's San Giorgio Palace, People's Commissar G. Chicherin set forth Lenin's disarmament plan before those present. In those distant years the representatives of the entente refused even to discuss it. Now the Soviet proposals cannot be brushed aside, for a great and mighty power and its socialist allies are making them. L.I. Brezhnev's visit to the FRG has reaffirmed with particular force the attractiveness and meaningfulness of these proposals to many people.

The Helsinki accords, the documents approved during L.I. Brezhnev's visits to Bonn and shortly before that to Paris and, finally, the talks which are now taking place, although without much headway, on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments, on the reduction of armaments and armed forces in central Europe and on ending nuclear tests--all these phenomena, while they are not of equal significance, when added together vividly highlight the changes which have taken place in the international arena in the last few years.

Without becoming easier, the battle for disarmament and peace has become much more effective. Suffice it to say that so far Washington has not ventured to launch mass production of the neutron bomb. What explains this? Unexpected philanthropy? No, the will of millions of ordinary people.

Without holding back and without retreating in the face of difficulties, our country is participating persistently and consistently in the front line of this battle. In accordance with the peace program elaborated by the 24th CPSU Congress and developed by the 25th CPSU Congress, the Soviet Union has put forward specific proposals for curbing the arms race and for subsequent disarmament. It is going to the UN General Assembly special session with a packed program, which is aimed at totally ending the arms race--both the quantitative and qualitative arms races--and at creating a genuine turning point in the solution of the disarmament problem: the most important of all international problems.

DISTRUST AMONG NATIONS THWARTS MEANINGFUL PEACE EFFORTS

LD251055Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 May 78 p 4 LD

[Political commentator Vitaliy Korionov article: "Life Commands"]

[Text] The question of what road the development of the modern world will take--toward the growth of trust and cooperation, or toward the growth of mutual fears, suspicion and the stockpiling of weapons--remains the most pressing question of our time. This question can and must be solved in favor of the cause of peace.

The relaxation of international tension has long since ceased to be merely a fine wish. It has to its credit many good and quite specific and tangible deeds. The trend toward the consolidation and deepening of detente has taken firm root in the political soil of Europe and the whole world and has become the leading trend in international life.

The significance of the treaties and agreements which were concluded in the first half of the seventies between the socialist and capitalist countries, and above all between the USSR and the United States, the USSR and France, and the USSR and the FRG, lies primarily in the fact that they opened a new period in the development of intereste relations--the period of the transition from cold war to trust and mutual understanding.

It is essential, however, to remember that extremely powerful forces are operating in the West. These forces have mounted a concentrated attack with the aim of discrediting the very idea of detente.

The political practice of recent years has shown quite convincingly that the most difficult morass to cross is the morass of prejudices. Anti-Soviets and anticommunists of every stripe are making desperate efforts to kindle mistrust among countries with different social systems. They are calculating that as a result of their efforts the morass of mistrust will become impassable and the mechanism of detente will start to skid and become hopelessly bogged down.

The opponents of detente are tirelessly fanning the hullabaloo about the "Soviet military threat." The inspirers of this hullabaloo know, of course, that there has never been any "Soviet military threat." They know very well that the Soviet Union has never armed itself for the sake of arming and has never been, and never will be, the initiator of an arms race. The Soviet Union's spending on defense, unlike the military budget of the United States and other NATO countries, year after year has not increased. The Soviet Union has not increased its armed forces in central Europe for a long time and does not intend to increase them in the future by a single soldier or a single tank.

We see a different picture in the NATO camp. According to official figures, over the last 4.5 years the direct military spending alone of this bloc has increased by a further $32.2 billion. Quite recently AFP, citing the U.S. Army headquarters in Heidelberg and the U.S. Air Force headquarters at Ramstein (FRG), reported facts supporting U.S. intentions to again substantially increase its military potential in Western Europe in the near future, particularly its pool of highly sophisticated fighter aircraft. The entire U.S. press carried this report.

Facts are stubborn things and they are admitted even by people whose loyalty to U.S. policy is beyond question. A well-known U.S. public figure, Charles Yost, for instance, affirms in the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: "For the sake of truth it should not be forgotten that the strategic might of the United States grew far more rapidly in the fifties and early sixties than the strategic might of the Soviet Union, and it is the United States that has introduced the majority of new strategic weapons systems."

The widespread armed interference of the NATO countries in the internal affairs of Zaire has once again confirmed the hostility of the West's imperialist circles to the cause of the peace and freedom. It is typical that the Peking leaders are harnessing themselves with increasing zeal to the same team as those imperialist forces, which flout the elementary norms of international life. From the Pentagon and NATO to the Moaists--such is the front of the forces which are trying to wreck the cause of international detente.

In this situation it is becoming especially obvious to every soder-minded person that the turbid stream of fabrications about the "Soviet military threat" is poisoning the atmosphere of trust among peoples and countries and is calling into question the very idea of shifting political detente to the military field.

Take for instance the book which was recently published in the United States, with the pretentious, publicity-conscious title "Defending America." The foreword to the book was written by J. Schlesinger, who had earlier held the post of Pentagon chief and CIA director and who now heads the Department of Energy (the same department whose budget concealed appropriations for the production of neutron weapons). Playing upon the revulsion felt by honest Americans toward the Pentagon's inglorious adventure in Vietnam, Schlesinger takes up arms against the idea of detente, asserting that it has become "a kind of ritual incantation which is allegedly capable of solving the basic problems of international rivalry. These illusions connected with detente are nothing more than the utopian fantasies of a nation which is growing increasingly tired and which is seeking a diminution of its responsibility." The idea of detente is attacked just as ferociously in the book by Eugene Rostow, Paul Nitze and other adherents of a "hawkish" policy.

Recently the ruling clique of the Republican Party has been laying claim increasingly overtly to the role of U.S. troubadour in the struggle against detente and cooperation with the Soviet Union. Some representatives of the Republican Party, particularly those whose political careers have suffered setbacks in recent years, are strenuously composing all sorts of "statements" and "declarations" aimed at undermining Soviet-U.S. relations. The possibility of the conclusion of a new strategic offensive arms limitation agreement is producing the greatest rage among these gentlemen.

New York TIMES commentator J. Reston recently wrote in this connection: The Republican Party "after World War I and before World War II placed party interests above national interests. To all appearances, the Republicans have reverted to this attitude, having decided that in the 1978 mid-term elections and the 1980 presidential election they will be able to use anticommunism as a political trump card."

The enemies of peace are aiming their fire against detente precisely because they know that the atmosphere of detente has made it possible to take the first promising steps on the path of surmounting the barrier of mistrust between countries. The aim of these circles is to poison relations between peoples and states in order to give the "go-ahead" to the arms race.

World public opinion will attentively follow the work of the UN General Assembly special session on disarmament. Loyal to its consistent policy of peace, the Soviet Union is fully determined to do everything necessary to insure that the session becomes a real step forward in solving a question of truly vital significance to mankind and clearing the way to the convening of a world disarmament conference.

Different concerns possess NATO. Precisely on the eve of the General Assembly session the NATO leading organs have begun to examine the biggest military preparations program in NATO's history--a program calculated until the end of this century.

The arms escalation launched by Western militarist circles is coming to a dangerous frontier. The weapons which already fill the states' arsenals could cause irreparable harm to everything alive on earth. And all this time military technology is advancing. It is attaining a degree of development which can engender even more monstrous means of mass destruction.

The cynicism of the advocates of mass destruction weapons is boundless. Here is what Harold Agnew, director of the scientific research center in Los Alamos and the Pentagon's chief designer in the sphere of nuclear weapons creation, states in the "Bulletin of Atomic Scientists" [Byulleten Uchenykh-Atmoshchikov]:

"The time has come to learn to love the neutron bomb." No: The time has come to initiate all peace-loving forces in order to thwart the designs of the supporters of a weapon as subtly cruel as the neutron bomb.

The states' collective efforts in recent years have elaborated documents laying a firm foundation for the consolidation of peace and the development of all-round cooperation. Among them an especially important place is taken by the final act of the Helsinki conference which has been signed by the top leaders of 33 European states plus the United States and Canada. The significance of this fundamental document is growing yearly. The implementation of the principles and provisions enshrined in it opens up the most favorable prospects in the purpose of insuring lasting peace in Europe and other parts of the world.

In the past few decades the peace-loving peoples have doomed many of the aggressive forces' designs to failure. An eloquent confirmation of this is more than 30 years of peace in Europe. Today the forces defending the cause of peace and detente possess even greater real opportunities for halting the activity of those who stoke enmity among the peoples.

"Mistrust," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said in his 4 May speech in Augustusburg Castle, "feeds the monstrous creature of present-day international life which is the race to produce means for people's mass destruction. Essentially this race is senseless. It cannot be won. But it is easy to destroy mankind. It is time to stop."

Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speeches and the proposals recently submitted by the Soviet Government contain a broad program of measures whose implementation will create conditions for reinforcing and intensifying detente and consolidating the cause of world peace. The active, purposeful policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state accords with the most sacred aspirations of the peoples of the planet and therefore is meeting with increasingly energetic support from those who cherish the sacred cause of peace.

NONALINED COORDINATING BUREAU DELIBERATES IN HAVANA

LD251145Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 May 78 p 5 LD

[Arkadkiy Maslennikov commentary: "Important Event"]

[Text] A session of the Nonalined Countries' Coordinating Bureau has been held in the Cuban capital. Delegations from the bureau's 25 member states participated in its work, as well as representatives of 15 countries invited as observers.

The Havana forum is an outstanding event in present international life. [paragraph continues]

It met at a time when the whole development of the international situation acutely raises the question of the need to curb the arms race, to continue detente and to insure the free and independent development of young states threatened by imperialism.

As is known, the nonalined movement has an anti-imperialist, anticolonial and antiracist thrust. It makes a contribution to strengthening world peace. This was also reflected in the agenda of the Coordinating Bureau session in Havana, which discussed, above all, the activation of the struggle for peace and security, against the imperialist policy of diktat and aggression and for insurance of equal international cooperation and the people's right to be the masters of their own destiny and to choose the path of progressive development.

The session's final communique points out that sound and lasting peace and the insurance of international security can be achieved only on the basis of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Addressing the UN General Assembly special session on disarmament, the Coordinating Bureau called for effective measures to be taken to end the arms race and, above all, production of nuclear weapons.

The representatives of nonalined states meeting in Havana condemned the policy of interference and pressure being pursued by the forces of imperialism in Latin American countries.

The Coordinating Bureau censured neocolonialists and racists who are seeking to liquidate the national liberation in Africa and to breed strife among the countries of the continent.

The interests of world peace and the peoples' freedom, as was pointed out in Havana, demand decisive action against the arms race, which is being accelerated in Western countries, the continuation of detente and the assertion of the principles of peaceful coexistence among states.

WEST'S 'ACCUSATIONS' AGAINST SOVIET MARITIME FLEET HIT

LD252000Y Moscow TASS in English 1915 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 25, TASS--Sergey Stoklitskiy, TASS economic commentator, writes:

The ship-owners of some Western countries have been lately afflicted by a strange 'seasickness'. Its main symptom is fear, the fear of seeing the ships of the Soviet Merchant Marine plying the seas and oceans. The statement by the General Council of British Shipping, which appeared in the London DAILY TELEGRAPH recently, is a new manifestation of this quite original ailment.

The descendants of the great English seafarers of past centuries announced in Brighton that the Russians are steering the matters to robbing Britain and other Western states of merchant sea routes. They accused the Soviet Merchant Marine of 'disloyal competition' and suggested that the captains of "minor Europe' elaborate effective preventive measures shortly to prevent the growth of the Soviet Merchant Marine--in next five-year period.

All those "accusations" rest on an unsteady ground (much more unsteady than the sea surface). In order to see that, it is enough to have a look at these figures. In 1973-1976 the volume of world transportation by sea increased by less than two per cent while the international merchant marine--by more than 34 percent (from 452 million tons deadweight to 608 million tons). The growth of the Soviet transportation fleet was slightly more than 17 percent, and its share in world tonnage was less than five percent.

The private capitalist element is the main cause of all troubles in international shipping. It is exactly this element that engendered the lopsided disproportion between the demand for sea shipping, which sharply declined during the years of the crisis, and the growing supply of ships.

As far as the Soviet Merchant Marine is concerned, its transportation of goods of foreign charterers does not hold a marked place in the general volume of operations, and it bases its activity on a planned foundation, in strict accordance with the dynamics of the requirements of its national economy.

So causes of the aggravation of the crisis situation in sea navigation ought to be sought elsewhere. And it is not difficult to do, since responsibility for the present difficulties is borne by a handful of big ship-owners who monopolised whole fields of international transportation by sea.

Certain circles in the West came to need the myth about the Soviet Merchant Marine's 'intrusion' to divert attention of the public from the real causes of the crisis in navigation and ship-building.

And not only for that. Some people would not mind interfering, through adoption of discriminatory measures with regard to trade and economic contacts with the East, [with] the implementation of the provisions of the final act of the European conference in Helsinki, provisions aimed at ensuring favourable conditions for the development of international economic relations.

Is there a need to say how dangerous the consequences of being ill with this strange 'seasickness' can be? For example, it is capable of giving rise to a whole series of reply measures which, in their turn, may have an utterly unfavourable effect on the development of international business contacts.

Soviet foreign economic bodies proceed from the necessity to successfully accomplish the task facing the country's economy. At the same time they consistently come out for the development of trade and economic cooperation including that in the field of sea shippings, on the basis of the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF RESISTANCE FIGHTERS OPENS

LD242252Y Moscow TASS in English 2121 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Text] Minsk, May 24, TASS--Today the International Federation of Resistance Fighters open ed its 8th congress in the capital of Belorussia. Taking part are delegations of the federations national organizations, representatives of different international organizations.

The congress was opened by the chairman of the International Federation of Resistance Fighters, A. Banfi, who noted that it is taking place in a country that made the decisive contribution to the defeat of Nazism.

Unity in the struggle against fascism, for the triumph of democratic principles underlies the victory of the anti-Nazi war and the resistance movement. This unity, A. Banfi stressed, is no less important for victory in the hard struggle for disarmament. The fact that the U.N. has devoted a special session to this problem is a major victory for the democratic forces in this regard.

The chairman introduced alternate member of the Politbureau of the CPSU CC, first secretary of the Communist Party CC of Belorussia, Petr Masherov, who read out a message of greetings from the general secretary of the CPSU CC, Presient of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev to the 8th congress of the federation. It was met with stormy and lasting applause.

The brief but exceptionally pithy message, significant for its political content, addressed to you by that outstanding politician and statesman of our time Leonid Brezhnev, Peter Masherov said, expresses with impressive sincerity the deep respect of our state, of all Soviet people for the glorious veterans of the heroic struggle against fascism, admiration for your feats of genuine spiritual beauty and humaneness, performed in the name of saving civilization, and unshakable trust in the triumph of the ideals of peace, the security of the peoples, to the strengthening of which you are giving everything today, your strength, your energy, your rich experience.

Describing the sacred struggle of the Soviet people against fascism in the Great Patriotic War, the speaker stressed that this struggle was marked by unheard of staunchness of spirit, by the valour of the Soviet soldier--the victor, by mass heroism of Soviet people.

Peaceableness is an organic feature of the Soviet people, went on Petr Masherov. We are struggling for peace sincerely, unstintingly, doing everything possible to avert the outbreak of a new war, for the ideals of peace, freedom, democracy and progress to triumph forever and ever. The Soviet people needs peace as air, peace is its prior need and condition for creative, full-blooded life.

The lessons of struggle against fascism, the unfading memory of the millions who perished in the past war, the conscience of mankind demand that none remain aloof from the great, just struggle for a world without arms and wars.

Soviet people take pride in that since its birth, our socialist fatherland is tirelessly struggling for the attainment of these noble goals. From the first decree of peace signed by Lenin on the birthday of this state, to the peace program set forth by the 24th and further developed by the 25th Congress of the CPSU, and consistently implemented by our party and the Soviet state--such is the road traversed by our motherland through trials and tribulations, upholding the cause of peace and the security of the peoples. On behalf of the Soviet War Veterans' Committee the participants and guests in the congress were warmly greeted by the chairman of the Soviet War Veterans' Committee, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, General of the Army Pavel Batov.

A member of the Vietnam resistance movement, Nguyen Va Tosi, said that the Vietnamese people always remembers with feelings of deep gratitude the great and effective support and aid of the Soviet Union to its struggle for independence, freedom and socialism.

The opening session of the congress was addressed also by the general secretary of the World Federation of War Veterans, S. Vurgaft (France), the general secretary of the International Committee of Former Inmates of Ravensbruck, E. Handke (GDR), the head of the Yugoslav delegation and veteran fighter against fascism, M. Dugalic.

The congress continues.

UNITED STATES

GROMYKO MEETS WITH CYRUS VANCE IN NEW YORK

LD252138Y Moscow TASS in English 2130 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] New York, May 26, TASS--Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko had a meeting on Thursday with U.S. State Secretary Cyrus Vance. Questions related to the work of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament were discussed during the conversation. There was also an exchange of opinions in connection with the coming meeting of Andrey Gromyko with President of the United States Carter in Washington.

After the conversation, Andrey Gromyko and Cyrus Vance presented to each other the members of the Soviet and United States delegations at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly.

U.S. CONTINUES EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN FORCES IN EUROPE

LD251236Y Moscow TASS in English 1116 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Washington, May 25 TASS--On Wednesday, the United States Senate passed a resolution proclaiming the strengthening of NATO as the key stone of United States foreign policy and once again pledged full support to this military bloc.

The Senate resolution, to be followed by a similar resolution of the House of Representatives, shows once again what great significance is attached by the United States ruling quarters to the strengthening of NATO. Earlier this year, President Carter pledged to ship further contingents of American troops to Western Europe and to increase military appropriations connected with NATO requirements. These pledges have already been embodied in Pentagon plans and the draft military budget for the 1979 fiscal year, which envisages more than 128,000 million dollars in overall military spending.

About one third of the American divisions and one third of American tactical airforce units are now stationed on the territory of the West European NATO allies of the United States. According to the U.S. Defence Department, 224,000 American officers and men are stationed in Western Europe.

In recent years, the Pentagon has taken steps to increase the strength of American military units in Western Europe and to build up their arms. The American tactical airforce in Western Europe has also been strengthened. Another regiment of F-111 fighters, which can carry nuclear weapons, were sent there, and 72 more up-to-date F-15 fighter bombers were deployed on air fields in West Germany. The Pentagon also worked out plans for the air lifting and sea transporation of American reinforcements and arms in case of an emergency.

Though President Carter temporarily deferred the manufacture of the neutron weapon, the American military are not at all going to abandon their plans for converting the territory of the West European NATO allies into a nuclear arsenal. According to official data, about 7,000 American tactical nuclear weapons are now deployed in Western Europe.

The continuous build-up and strengthening of the American forces in Western Europe creates a constant threat to peace and security on the European Continent.

PENTAGON EXPLOITS CARTER INCONSISTENCY TO INCREASE FUNDS

LD251625Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 21, 19 May 78 pp 12-14 LD

[Article by correspondent Yu. Gudkov: "The Pentagon's Distant Goal"]

[Excerpts] A new concept--"people's lobby"--has appeared in the American political dictionary. Unlike the go-getters of the monopolies who prefer to operate behind the scenes, this lobby announces itself openly. The so-called amendment on the transfer of resources from the military budget to civil needs has become the common platform uniting thousands of Americans and dozens of organizations.

This movement was born in response to the unparalled and unceasing growth of the Pentagon's budget. Over 2 years ago the "National Center for the Reduction of Military Spending," which had just appeared, published a leaflet from its headquarters in New York which read: "The military budget is one of the main causes of inflation. Military spending creates unemployment. Economists estimate that the billions which the Pentagon collects from civilian sectors cost us millions of jobs." And the conclusion: It is essential to struggle for the reduction of appropriations for programs leading to "the destabilization of the military balance of forces and to a new round in the escalation of the arms race."

Repulsing Demagogy

Carter's election promise for an annual reduction in the military budget of $5-7 billion took into account the change in the mood of the voters. The refusal to fulfill these promises has only stepped up the activity of those who see a halt to the arms race as a real way not only to strengthen security but also to resolve internal problems.

"Carter is experiencing difficulties," the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR writes, "in implementing his plans in such fields as medical services and jobs because of the budget limitations caused by the annual deficit. New programs could lead to the deficit exceeding the $16 billion mark set by the President."

The "people's lobby" refutes such explanations. The lobby believes that the reason for the shortage of resources to satisfy the essential needs of millions of Americans lies in excessive military spending. It accounts for one-fourth of the entire budget and enjoys undoubted priority. "On the whole, the Pentagon is receiving a substantial 'raise'," the WALL STREET JOURNAL writes of the 1979 draft budget, "at a time when Carter is limiting the increase in spending for other departments."

This increase amounts to 8 percent or $10 billion, but the "brass hats" are continuing to accuse the administration of "disregarding security interests." Day after day the newspapers publish panicky statements by spokesmen of the war departments. When retiring from his post as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen George Brown asserted in his "farewell report" that "in recent years the U.S. position in virtually every field of military might has deteriorated in comparison with the Soviet Union" and the "the military threat to the country will grow in the future."

During discussion of this report in the House Budget Committee, a curious dialog took place. Committee chairman George Mahon recalled that during the 3 years that G. Brown was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Pentagon received $330.7 billion. Why then have these billions not brought the United States security?

The general replied that in the last 5 years the Pentagon's budgetary claims have been cut by $5.5 billion every year. Then Mahon asked another question: Can Brown name even one program "out of the major programs or those of special importance" which has been canceled through lack of funds? The general could not find anything to say. "You must know," Mahon continued, "that the majority of reductions resulted from delays in the fulfillment of programs because the Defense Department was not ready to use the resources."

In other words, the Pentagon is practically a stranger to the limitations and reductions of military appropriations, which are always surrounded by stormy discussion. This tactical device for deceiving the public is simple: The steady growth of military appropriations is masked by loud groanings about reductions.

However, the present campaign also has a long-term aim. Its organizers are trying to prepare the Americans for a sharp increase in military spending next year, and the $10 billion envisaged for the Pentagon in the new budget will, by all appearances, lay the foundations for this process.

The Concept of the "Daily Threat"

In February, Defense Secretary Harold Brown presented a report to Congress which was passed over in silence by the mass information media. However, as the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR put it, it includes a "new philosophical concept." The newspaper has a short memory. The notorious "concept" closely resembles the "doctrine of military superiority," which the "brass hats" have been trying to implement throughout the postwar years. In the fifties the mythical "bomber gap" was exposed. In the early sixties it was a question of the "missile gap." In both cases it proved possible to increase military spending sharply. The "new philosophical concept" does not define the next "gap," but it warns that the threat to the United States is a "daily" threat. In his remarks defending the report before the House Armed Services Committee, Harold Brown stated: "We were certainly in front in the late fifties and early sixties, and then we significantly lessened our main efforts, while the Soviets were continuing to consistently increase their efforts. We must now increase capital investments in defense if we want to preserve equality."

This report also gives an idea of the Pentagon's long-term plans. It provides for an increase of $56 billion in military appropriations in the next 5-year period and the development of such systems as MX missiles, MK-12A warheads for Minuteman missiles, and Trident missiles for submarines. It places special emphasis on raising the combat readiness of NATO forces, where the neutron bomb plays an important role.

These types of sophisticated weapons have one feature in common--they have all completed engineering and technical development and are ready for production. In late March, digging began in Arizona on a half-kilometer tunnel for testing the intercontinental missile. If it is deployed, this system in which each missile costs about $100 million, will cost approximately $40 billion (and as a rule, the Pentagon's preliminary calculations are far too low). The creation of new systems promises such a flow of orders and profits in the next decade that it will exceed everything known to the history of profits from instruments of death.

The Consequences of Inconsistency

The growing resistance to these plans is explained by the fact that the choice "between guns and butter" is dictated today by the realities of American life and also by the very nature of the new weapons.

The deployment of missiles not only requires colossal expenditure, but also inevitably upsets the existing balance of forces. The MX has 10 nuclear warheads compared with the 3 of the Minuteman-3. Each of them carries a payload of 350 kilotons (almost 18 times bigger than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima) and can be guided to an individual target.

Since the missile will be placed on rails in underground tunnels stretching for thousands of miles, monitoring of the quantity of missiles deployed will be practically impossible. Moreover, the MX is an offensive weapon and therefore, according to the well-known military observer Drew Middleton, its deployment "may mean a departure from the strategy of containment in the direction of creating a capability to wage--and win-- a nuclear war....The question arises: Does the United States need a retaliatory strike capability or is the Air Force obsessed by the idea of a first strike against Soviet nuclear weapons?"

Only recently Defense Secretary H. Brown said that he was leaving "open the question" of the possibility of a "missile launch on sight" [po obnaruzheniyu]. The so-called "launch on sight strategy," that is, according to radar information, not only creates the danger of an unprovoked nuclear war, since the alarm might be false (remember the story of the flock of geese taken for Soviet missiles), but also serves as a justification for a first nuclear strike. It is no accident that the New York TIMES admits that "if the MX missile ever sees the light of day it will lead to profound changes in American strategy and will increase the risk of a diplomatic crisis developing into a nuclear war." The same threat is inherent in the cruise missile and the neutron bomb which, according to the "brasshats' plans, are to be used in local conflicts.

All this is no secret, of course. Not only representatives of the progressive public are expressing indignation and protests against the irresponsible course. The 14 Senate votes received by the authors of the amendment on the transfer of funds indicate a definite shift. Thomas McIntyre, who heads the Senate Research and Development Subcommittee, has talked about "the madness of limited wars." Richard Clark, member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, believes that the "hawks" are enjoying too free a hand in defining national security goals. Senator Edward Kennedy has warned against the destabilizing consequences of a new round of the arms race.

However, the "hawks" are making skillful use of the present administration's inconsistency. In the new fiscal year the Pentagon demanded $245 million to accelerate the plan for the deployment of MX missiles. The administration curtailed this sum, yet work continues on this latest weapon. Just as work is continuing on the neutron bomb and the means of delivering it. The Pentagon has publicly made fierce attacks on the report by the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, which states that the deployment of the neutron bomb will increase the risk of the outbreak of nuclear war, and it has also attacked the statement by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on the urgent need for an international ban on the production of materials used in the production of nuclear weapons.

So far Congress has tended to cut military appropriations. If not for individual programs, then as a whole. Last year the military budget submitted by the administration was cut by almost $4 billion. Now everything looks different. "The feeling here (on Capitol Hill--Yu. Gudkov)" the Washington POST quotes a congressman, "is definitely changing in favor of increasing the military budget, not reducing it."

Recently the Senate voted a $1,4 billion increase in military appropriations, and advocated, moreover, that the deployment of the MX missile system be accelerated. [paragraph continues]

The House of Representatives has not yet voted, although its Armed Services Committee has already asked for a further $2.6 billion for the Pentagon. The "justification" of this decision is curious. "By vowing to cut the military budget," the Washington POST notes, "Carter may have helped to contribute to the adoption of an amendment on increasing it when he made his promilitarist speech in Winston-Salem." It is no accident that the newspaper WALL STREET JOURNAL adds the congressmen to the concept of the "military industrial complex," which has been current since Eisenhower's days. Congress is becoming more and more active in the role of a Pentagon-plugger or, to be more accurate, an accomplice of the monopolies with arms orders on their books.

The heavy increase in the cost of arms is leading steadily to a reduction in the number of companies capable of bidding for Pentagon orders. A simple example: Whereas 20 years ago the U.S. Air Force bought 3,000 aircraft every year, in the present fiscal year this figure is 530. And the reason: The reason is that a present-day fighter cost $10-20 million. This offers unprecedented opportunities for those who can break into the budget pie, especially as the number of contractors is diminishing and military appropriations are growing. The military's pursuit of the mirage of military superiority is encouraged by the military industrial monopolies' unslakable thirst for riches. "The United States, which has always set the pace in the military race, is on the threshold of a further 10-year round of the buildup of new arms systems," prominent publicist Richard Barnett warns.

The well known American scholar George Kistiakowsky, chief scientific adviser to President Eisenhower, stresses: "Today, faced with consequences which might entail confrontation, we Americans are at the crossroads. Depending on the road we choose, we may take advantage of or miss one of today's rare opportunities of bringing stability to our danger-filled world."

U.S. BULLETIN NOTES USSR LEADS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LD252248Y Moscow TASS in English 2229 GMT 25 May 78 LD

["Indisputable Advantages"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, May 25, TASS--The Soviet Union is ahead of Western countries in its economic development, according to the American bulletin ECONOMIC NOTES.

The bulletin writes that if one compares the average annual data on the economic growth rate of the USSR and the USA, the rate in the Soviet Union has been twice as high as that in the USA throughout the entire post-war period. The most glaring contrast has been observed in the past seven years when the rate of growth in the USSR was almost five times as high as the respective indicators in the USA, almost three times as high as that in France, 3.5 times as high as that in Japan and 4.5 times as high as that in Italy.

The bulletin draws special attention to the steady increment in industrial production in the USSR.

The bulletin emphasizes that the Soviet Union does not rest on the achievements and continues its course towards further developing its economy comprehensively. Lately, the Soviet Union, unlike the USA, started an accelerated development of the most capital-intensive branches of production, investing considerable funds in the development of the oil industry of Siberia, in agriculture and railway transport. All this, in the opinion of the ECONOMIC NOTES, will bring tangible results in the nearest future.

BERGLAND DESCRIBES 'VERY USEFUL' AGRICULTURE TALKS IN USSR

ID250849Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 20 May 78 p 3 LD

[O. Polyakovskiy article: "Fruitful Contacts"]

[Text] The visit to the Soviet Union by a U.S. delegation headed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Robert Bergland has been an important milestone in the development of Soviet-U.S. cooperation in agriculture. The delegation visited the Ukraine, Tselinograd Oblast in Kazakhstan, and Leningrad, and familiarized itself with the agricultural production of Moskovskaya Oblast. Everything the delegation members say in the USSR made a tremendous impression on them, Bergland frequently noted. "You have worked a real miracle in the postwar years," he stated.

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture rated highly the achievements of the Soviet agrarian scientists. "You are doing a wonderful job, which is benefiting all mankind," he said during his visit to the Mironovka Wheat Selection and Seed Growing Scientific Research Institute, where 43 new strains of agricultural crops have been raised during the institute's existence.

"The Soviet Union and the United States," Bergland said, "are leading food producers. Our achievements in this sphere are of enormous significance for the whole world. Fruitful cooperation and the exchange of scientific information between our countries' scientists will undoubtedly produce good results."

The trip to the virgin land regions of Kazakhstan made a big impression on the members of the U.S. delegation. "These regions," Bergland noted, "are very similar in terms of their climatic conditions to the west and northwest of the United States. We therefore visited them with particular interest. We saw wonderfully well-established production, high-quality equipment, and hospitable people who have transformed this land by their labor." The delegation was acquainted with the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Grain Farming. This institute was created in 1956 for the elaboration of scientific methods of crop farming in arid regions where there is a great danger of wind soil erosion. And this goal has been attained. The times when dust storms destroyed the fertile layer of the Kazakhstan soil have disappeared into the past. The institute has developed a new system for tilling the soil which fully protects it against erosion by cyclones and which prevents a single drop of moisture from being wasted. "Our scientists can learn a great deal from you, and yours can learn a lot from us," the U.S. secretary of agriculture said. "You are doing things here of which we are still not even thinking."

Expressing deep satisfaction at scientific cooperation with the USSR, the U.S. secretary of agriculture said that one of the main aims of the U.S. delegation's trip to the Soviet Union was the development of new proposals aimed at the further development and intensification of this cooperation. Bergland's meetings and talks in the USSR were devoted to Soviet-U.S. cooperation in agriculture. He was received by A.N. Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The U.S. secretary of agriculture also met with V.A. Kirillin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology; USSR Foreign Trade Minister N.S. Patolichev; USSR Minister of Agriculture V.K. Mesyats; and USSR Minister of Procurements G.S. Zolotukhin.

During the talks which took place paths were outlined for the further development of mutually advantageous Soviet-U.S. cooperation.

New horizons of cooperation are opening up before us, Bergland stated before leaving Moscow, in spheres like joint research into weather forecasting, grain crop selection and the use of water resources. This has been a very useful visit.

CONGRESS REACHES AGREEMENT ON NATURAL GAS PRICES

LD251208Y Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 25 May 78 LD

["Capitulation to Oil and Gas Tycoons"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, May 25 TASS--TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Yegorov reports: The Senate-House Conference Committee approved on Wednesday a compromise agreement on prices of natural gas. It did so after six months of argument and procrastination. This item is an important component part of the government's energy program, which has been under discussion in the Congress for more than 13 months.

The compromise approved today is very far from the initial version of the program, and is nothing but capitulation of the administration to oil and gas monopolies. It lifts the government's control over prices of natural gas as of 1985, and before that year gas companies are allowed to raise prices of gas by 10 percent every year. According to official estimates, this compromise will cost the American consumer 9,000 million dollars before 1985. But some specialists believe that the figure will be 4-5 times greater, and the profits of oil and gas companies will largely grow.

Senator James Abourezk described the compromise reached as a monstrous betrayal of the interests of American consumers. The Congress in this matter pursues the interests of gas and oil industry tycoons, whose greediness for profits is generally know.

MALIN ASSAILS PRC POSITION AT UN DISARMAMENT SESSION

OW260511Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 23 May 78 OW

[Malin commentary: "The Peking Leadership's Stand on the Disarmament Issue"]

[Text] For the first time the disarmament issue will be discussed in detail when representatives of 149 countries attend an important special UN session. What will be the position of the Peking representative?

The people of all countries will, of course, welcome constructive ideas or positive proposals made by the Chinese representative. Peking's position will become known soon. However, facts reveal that Peking is a sworn enemy of disarmament. In cooperation with reactionaries and bellicose imperialist elements, Peking is doing everything possible to participate in the arms race.

It should be noted that the Peking representative has not advanced even one proposal to achieve disarmament and halt the arms race since the PRC's legitimate rights were restored in this international organization at the 26th session of the UN General Assembly in 1971. The Peking representative has even opposed more intensely than representatives of Western countries of all the proposals to strengthen and safeguard world peace made by the friendly socialist and developing countries.

The PRC delegation has used the UN as a forum to spread malicious rumors vilifying the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Allied with the representatives of the pinochet military clique and the racist authorities in the Republic of South Africa, the PRC delegation opposed the proposal advanced by the Soviet Union and other countries to convene a world disarmament conference. Subsequently, the Chinese representative voted against the proposal.

Peking is opposed to completely banning the production and use of nuclear weapons, prohibiting the production of new mass destruction weapons, and prohibiting the placing of nuclear weapons and rockets in outer space and under the sea. Pretending to be a "true freind" of developing countries, the Peking representative has opposed a 10 percent reduction in the military budgets of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, and opposed the use of money saved from this reduction to aid developing countries. Peking has signed no international agreement to halt the arms race and nuclear tests.

That is the political stand of the PRC delegation attending the special UN session on disarmament. The Chinese people are very concerned about the disarmament issue. They are as much concerned about this issue as are the people in all other countries. The Chinese people are hoping that the Peking delegation will contribute to resolving the world's most important issue.

SOVIET EMBASSY STATEMENT ON QUEEN'S W. BERLIN VISIT

LD241616Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1521 GMT 24 May 78 LD

["Press Statement by the USSR Embassy in the GDR"--ADN headline]

[Text] TASS/ADN--In connection with the visit by Queen Elizabeth to West Berlin today, certain circles of the FRG and West Berlin undertook distinct attempts to depict the journey as an inseparable component part of the Queen's official visit to the FRG. Evidently, the fact that the Queen was accompanied by FRG Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt also served this aim, although it is generally known that West Berlin is not a component part of the FRG and is not governed by it, and that state institutions of the FRG, including the federal chancellor, cannot carry out any constitutional or official acts in the city.

The USSR Embassy in the GDR deems it necessary to point out in all clarity that such acts by the West German side are contrary to the quadripartite agreement, and do not coincide with the tasks of consistent inclusion of West Berlin in the process of detente and the emergence of constructive cooperation between different countries.

HONECKER RECEIVES SOVIET AMITY DELEGATION

LD251517Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 May 78 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Development of Relations"]

[Text] Berlin, 23 May--E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, has received here a delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries headed by Z. M. Kruglova, chairman of the Union Presidium. The Soviet delegation participated in the 11th German-Soviet Friendship Society Congress.

CSSR'S HULA VIEWS COOPERATION PRIOR TO BREZHNEV VISIT

LD251900Y Moscow TASS in English 1825 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Prague, May 25, TASS--The coming visit to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic by a Soviet party and government delegation led by general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev will be an event of great importance in the development of fraternal relations between the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Soviet Union in all spheres, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, deputy prime minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Vaclav Hula, said in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

Leonid Brezhnev's visits to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, his meetings and talks with Gustav Husak always were and will be an important contribution to further deepening and perfection of cooperation between our fraternal countries.

All of us remember Leonid Brezhnev's visit to Czechoslovakia in May, 1970, as a result of which the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Czechoslovakia and the USSR was signed. It can be said that a new stage of cooperation of our countries was started after the signing of this historic document. One of the main directions of this cooperation is the development of economic relations which assumed an unprecedented scope in the recent years.

It should be emphasized that economic cooperation with the Soviet Union plays an extremely important role and has vast scopes. It exerts great influence on the structure and dynamics of the development of the national economy of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. The importance of the deepening of the links of the Czechoslovak economy with the Soviet Union's great economic potential is increasing now that we are implementing the program of Czechoslovakia's economic development adopted by the 15th congress of our party, Vaclav Hula said.

Draft long-term programs of specialisation and cooperation of production are being drawn up now. They will place the emphasis on developing or increasing the volume of production of those types of products that are of decisive importance for the dynamics of the development and perfection of the structures of the economies of both countries. These long-term programs encompass, above all, machine-building, the chemical industry and the petrochemical industry.

We regard these programs as an integral part of coordination of the national economic plans of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the USSR for the period after the year 1980. Broad fraternal cooperation between Czechoslovakia and the USSR which is based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism, of proletarian and socialist internationalism, of community of interests and goals and mutual advantage is an earnest of further successful development of economic relations in the interests of friendship between our countries.

The visit of the Soviet party and government delegation led by Leonid Brezhnev to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will, undoubtedly, make a new impetus to intensification of all-round relations, to the deepening of integration between the national economies of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the USSR, Vaclav Hula stressed.

GROMYKO MEETS WITH CSSR COUNTERPART IN NEW YORK

LD251859Y Moscow TASS in English 1651 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] New York, May 25, TASS--Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko had a meeting here with member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Foreign Minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Bohuslav Chnoupek.

During the conversation, the sides noted the exceptional importance for further development of fraternal Soviet-Czechoslovak relations of the coming visit to Czechoslovakia by a Soviet party and government delegation led by general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev. The sides discussed a number of international questions of mutual interest and also touched upon the problems of the current special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament. Both delegations are determined to promote its success in every way. The conversation passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

GRISHIN TOURS SOFIA; TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

Meeting in Sofia Gorkom

LD261819Y Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 May 78 p 1 LD

[TASS special correspondent dispatch: "Under the Banner of Fraternal Friendship"]

[Text] Sofia, 20 May--The Moscow delegation headed by V.V. Grishin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, which is here for the Moscow Days in Sofia, today had a meeting in the Sofia BCP Gorkom.

During a warm, friendly talk V.V. Grishin spoke of the great successes of the working people of Moscow in fulfilling the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress. He noted the feelings of fraternal friendship which Muscovites entertain toward the residents of Sofia and toward the whole Bulgarian people, and gave a high evaluation of the multifaceted ties between the two fraternal capitals. G. Yordanov, member of the BCP Central Committee Secretariat and first secretary of the Sofia BCP Gorkom, spoke of the tasks now being resolved by the Sofia City Party Organization and the contribution of the residents of the Bulgarian capital to the development and strengthening of indestructible Bulgarian-Soviet friendship. V.N. Bazovskiy, USSR ambassador to Bulgaria, took part in the meeting.

A "Moscow"-Capital of the USSR" exhibition, organized within the framework of the Moscow days which are being held in Sofia, was ceremonially opened today in the capital's "Festivalny" Hall. More than 2,000 exhibits tell of different facets of the life of the Soviet capital.

V.F. Promyslov, chairman of the Moscow Gorispolkom, spoke at the exhibition's opening ceremony. The holding of the Moscow Days in Sofia, he said, is of great significance in the life of our cities and clear evidence of the successful development of friendly ties and businesslike cooperation between the Moscow CPSU Gorkom and the Sofia BCP Gorkom, the Moscow Gorispolkom and the Sofia People's Council, and many organizations and enterprises in the two fraternal capitals. The "Moscow--Capital of the USSR" exhibition is new proof of the indestructible friendship, tested by the centuries, between our two peoples and countries, between Moscow and Sofia.

Present at the opening of the exhibition were S. Todorov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, members of the BCP Central Committee Politburo Ts. Dragoycheva and O. Doynov, and other officials, as well as the delegation from the Soviet capital headed by V.V. Grishin.

Today the Moscow delegation visited the national museum of Bulgarian-Soviet friendship in Sofia. The guests were accompanied by Ts. Dragoycheva and by N. Papazov, member of the BCP Central Committee Secretariat and chairman of the All-National Committee for Bulgarian-Soviet friendship, G. Yordanov, and V.N. Bazovskiy, USSR ambassador to Bulgaria.

After looking around the museum the members of the delegation left a note in the visitor's book which says, in particular; "We familiarized ourselves with the exhibits and materials collected in the Bulgarian-Soviet friendship museum with deep emotion. "They represent a clear, documentary chronicle of the fraternity, friendship and close cooperation between our peoples in the struggle against foreign oppressors, for freedom, peace, happiness and social progress, and in building a new society, and are a great inspirational force in the cause of socialist and communist creation."

N. Papazov presented the members of the delegation with honorary badges of the All-National Committee for Bulgarian-Soviet friendship. He noted the fruitful nature of the fraternal friendship and cooperation between Sofia and Moscow.

The delegation later visited the house of Soviet Science and Culture in Sofia and familiarized themselves with its activity.

Talks With Zhivkov

LD251447Y Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 May 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Sofia, 22 May TASS--T. Zhivkov, first secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, today received V.V. Grishin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, who is here in connection with the holding of the Moscow Days in Sofia.

V.V. Grishin conveyed to T. Zhivkov cordial greetings and good wishes from L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. For his part T. Zhivkov expressed sincere thanks and wished L.I. Brezhnev great successes in his multifaceted activity.

During the talk comrades T. Zhivkov and V.V. Grishin satisfactorily noted the successes of the Soviet and Bulgarian peoples in building a communist and socialist society and in the successful implementation of the consistent course of the CPSU and the BCP toward further development of all-round cooperation and rapprochement between the USSR and Bulgaria. The important significance of personal meetings and talks between leaders of the CPSU and the BCP and the USSR and Bulgaria at summit level was particularly stressed.

T. Zhivkov assessed highly the state of the varied ties between Moscow and Sofia. He stressed that the Moscow Days in Sofia would be a new manifestation of the indestructible friendship of the Soviet and Bulgarian peoples and a convincing testimony to the constantly strengthening all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. The talk passed in a fraternal, cordial atmosphere.

On the same day T. Zhivkov presented V.V. Grishin with the Order of Georgi Dimitrov, which he was awarded for his great services in developing Bulgarian-Soviet friendship and cooperation. V.V. Grishin expressed deep thanks to the BCP Central Committee, State Council and Government of Bulgaria for the lofty award.

NOVIKOV SPEAKS AT OPENING OF YUGOSLAV EXHIBITION

LD252335Y Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 1730 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] An exhibition of Yugoslav construction material and equipment opened in Moscow today. Several dozen Yugoslav associated enterprises and firms, which produce everything necessary for the construction and equipping of all kinds of plants, from apartments and hotels to workshops and industrial enterprises, are presenting their products at this exhibition.

Ignatiy Novikov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Gojko Ubiparip, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, who is in Moscow, both spoke at the official opening of the exhibition. Novikov stressed that Soviet-Yugoslav relations are developing successfully in all spheres, in particular in economic matters. The regular meetings of the highest leaders of the two countries, comrades Leonid Brezhnev and Josip Broz Tito, provide a powerful incentive for this, Ignatiy Novikov stressed. The deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers expressed the conviction that the big Yugoslav exhibition in Moscow will contribute toward the continued expansion of cooperation between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia and enable them to exchange various experience and technical innovations. During the exhibition proposals will be examined concerning the purchase of certain machines, materials and products from exhibition participants.

Gojko Ubiparip, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, also stressed in his speech that the work of the civil engineers of our two countries has great prospects. [words indistinct] of the government of the Soviet Union, Comrade Ubiparip said, we have been offered the opportunity of showing our achievements in the sphere of construction. The opening of the exhibition in Moscow was attended by colleagues of the Yugoslav Embassy led by Ambassador Joze Smole and representatives of Yugoslav trade organizations, experts from various construction institutes and organizations of the Soviet Union and journalists. Ignatiy Novikov today received Gojko Ubiparip. They held talks which proceeded in an friendly atmosphere. Joze Smole, SFRY ambassador to the Soviet Union, also took part in the talks.

SIMONYAN HITS NATO NUCLEAR THRESHOLD CONCEPT, NEUTRON BOMB

LD2609?5Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 May 78 p 4 LD

[Doctor of Military Sciences Maj Gen R. Simonyan article: "The 'Nuclear Threshold' in NATO Strategy"]

[Text] Lately, in connection with the debate which has developed around the neutron weapons, the question of the "nuclear threshold" is broached increasingly often in the world press and in the speeches of many politicians and military men.

What is it all about? When and how did this question arise, what is its place in the nuclear strategy of the Pentagon and NATO, and why is it closely connected with neutron weapons today?

In contemporary military terminology the moment of the switch to using nuclear weapons in an ongoing military conflict is called the "nuclear threshold." The concept of the "nuclear threshold" was introduced by American scientist and futurologist Herman Kahn in the "theory of escalation" which he elaborated.

It is well known that during the period of the "massive nuclear retaliation" strategy the problem of the "nuclear threshold" did not exist at all since Washington, pinning its hopes on "overwhelming nuclear superiority," did not conceive of or plan any kind of war in Europe other than a universal nuclear war. The Pentagon strategists saw such a war as the unilateral delivery of nuclear strikes against the Soviet Union right from the outset of a military conflict, while U.S. territory would remain invulnerable or virtually invulnerable to a retaliatory strike.

The Soviet Union's successes in developing its economy, science and technology have deprived the United States of its nuclear monopoly and have led to equilibrium between the USSR and the United States in strategic nuclear facilities. The Pentagon has realized that under these conditions a strategic nuclear war would be fraught with the threat of annihilation for the aggressor himself, despite the advantageous geographical situation of the United States. Taking into account the "unacceptable damage for the United States" in such a war and the "possibility of global devastation," John Collins, well-known specialist in the sphere of American strategy, wrote in his book "big strategy" that "for the first time in history people are racking their brains more about how to avert war (given the existing state of affairs) than about how to wage it."

On the whole this is so. But it does not apply to the people from the Pentagon. They are by no means racking their brains in seeking ways to prevent nuclear war in the light of the Soviet-American agreements and the conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, but in elaborating scenarios [varianty] for waging it against the Soviet Union and the other socialist community states. These scenarios must make it possible on the one hand to achieve certain imperialist goals and on the other to avoid a retailiatory strike against U.S. territory. As a result of a protracted quest for new ways and means of achieving U.S. global aspirations by military means, the Pentagon, while retaining strategic nuclear war as the decisive means of achieving the political goals of American imperialism, is picturing the waging of "limited war"--a war using both conventional and nuclear weapons.

In the Pentagon's view, at the start of its development such a military conflict in Europe could take the form of a conventional war and then, depending on the situation, develop into a tactical nuclear war or in a critical situation, into a strategic war. [paragraph continues]

The many possible scenarios for using the various types of nuclear weapons during the actual "tactical" nuclear conflict in a theater of war or even in [several] theaters of military operations and the danger of the tactical war developing into a strategic war have conditioned the emergence of the problem of the "nuclear threshold" and "nuclear escalation." According to the idea of the Pentagon strategists and their partners in the NATO bloc, the nuclear and other "thresholds" are designed to insure that military operations escalate in a planned fashion and to insure the "measured" [dozirovanny] use of nuclear offensive weapons during the warfare. According to their calculations, all this ought to keep the military conflict within the bounds of the European theaters of military operations. Let us speak plainly--it is an infeasible task.

According to the Western press, the Pentagon and NATO have elaborated a "specific doctrine of the tactical nuclear weapons use." And the bloc's military organs have been informed of the basic theses of this doctrine in the form of directives. Two documents stand out among these. The first, according to the New York TIMES, is a top-secret political directive. It defines the principles of the use of NATO's tactical nuclear weapons and also "the circumstances and geographical areas in which these weapons can be used."

The second document, which was approved at a Defense Planning Committee session, concerns political consultations within the NATO framework in connection with the use of tactical nuclear weapons. The NATO press has reported that in its discussion of this issue the committee rejected the principle of a veto for the individual countries on whose territory nuclear weapons may be used. It was decided that the U.S. President, who has the right to take the final decision in this eventuality, will merely "hold close consultations and take into account the opinions of the countries concerned." The practical execution of these decisions lies with the NATO supreme allied commander Europe, that is, an American general. At the present time the post is held by Gen A. Haig.

It will be recalled that today the NATO arsenal in Europe alone has 7,000 nuclear munitions and about 3,000 delivery vehicles. But as is evident, this is not enough for the strategists across the ocean. They would like to enlarge the arsenal with yet another type of weapon--the neutron bomb. The question arises: Why?

The above-mentioned General Haig provides the answer to this question. Advocating the deployment of neutron weapons in West Europe, he declared: "Since American strategic deterrents are losing their superiority over the Russian strategic deterrents and will probably be further neutralized in the future by a strategic arms limitation agreement, the European theater of military operations is becoming much more vulnerable and it will need its own deterrent might."

As is evident from this statement, under the pretext of the "military threat" from the socialist community countries which they themselves have invented, the NATO ringleaders are seeking expansion of the arsenal of nuclear offensive weapons through the adoption and deployment of neutron weapons in Europe. According to their calculations, this will insure a wide choice of scenarios for the use of nuclear weapons and consequently the creation of supposedly guaranteed possibilities of preventing a "tactical" nuclear war from developing into a strategic war.

It is perfectly clear that U.S. and NATO military circles regard the neutron bomb as a necessary means of achieving their ends. Its purpose is not only to further lower the "nuclear threshold" but also to erase altogether the distinction between conventional and nuclear weapons and thereby make the unleashing of a nuclear war imperceptible, as it were, to the peoples.

U.S. militarist circles are extolling the new "wonder-weapon," calling it "clean" and even "humane." Haig said, for example, that "it is simply ridiculous to say that it is inhumane to use it."

It is known, however, that the neutron bomb's design is that of a thermonuclear munition of limited yield or, as it is still called, "minithermonuclear charge." Its current models are designed to be fitted to Lance missile warheads and 203.2 mm Howitzer shells.

When a neutron charge explodes it will emit a considerable quantity of fast neutrons, as a result of the heavy isotopes of hydrogen (deuterium and tritium) involved in the thermonuclear reaction. The fast neutrons will account for around 80 percent of the energy given off, (instead of 5-6 percent in existing types of nuclear munitions). It is this which explains the destructive effect this weapon has on all living things. The sharp reduction in energy in the form of shock wave and luminous radiation narrows the zone in which all kinds of engineering installations and combat equipment are destroyed. According to specialists' data, the destructive effect of a Lance missile warhead neutron charge with a capacity of 1 kiloton is characterized by the following figures. The shock wave and luminous radiation cause total destruction within a radius of 200-300 meters. At the same time, the invisible neutrons, possessing enormous kinetic energy, speed on penetrating clothing, armor and brick walls with ease. Therefore, at a distance of up to 800 meters from the epicenter of the explosion these neutrons are lethal to the human organism. One-half of those who are at a distance of 1,400 meters will die within a month. According to the British geneticist Professor Edwards, the specific features of the neutron weapon "consist in the fact that the period in which it can maim people is not limited; even several generations after the use of this weapon children will be born, mutilated by the radiation."

In an attempt to justify the "need" to equip NATO with the barbaric weapon, militarist circles use as a cover the false flag of the "Soviet threat," despite the commonly known fact that a strategic forces' balance has been established and is being maintained between the Soviet Union and the United States.

Many press organs and political and public figures in the West point, however, to the fact that the use of neutron weapons in the event of a military conflict between the NATO bloc and the Warsaw Pact countries could lead to nuclear escalation, crossing the "threshold" of general nuclear war. It goes without saying that the use of any kind of nuclear weapon (including neutron weapons) is certainly fraught with the danger that a regional conflict might develop into a general nuclear catastrophe, and here the "thresholds," whatever they might be, cannot contain it (the regional conflict) within the preordained boundaries.

However, the danger of a "tactical" nuclear war is not confined to the role of a "spark" in a "big" conflagration. It is extremely dangerous per se.

Clearly it is a simple matter for the Pentagon strategists to decide to unleash a "tactical" nuclear war. Although such a war would result in enormous human casualties, it would nevertheless be waged, they reckon, far from their own home, where the flames of the nuclear conflagration would not touch.

Neglecting the obvious danger of such a war in Europe, the military leadership of the United States and NATO is preparing for it by improving operational and tactical means of nuclear attack. These means, comprising the so-called "nuclear forces in the theater of war," occupy an important place in the NATO "triad" (strategic nuclear forces, theater nuclear forces and general forces).

The Soviet Union is resolutely opposed to the creation of the neutron weapon, which would raise the arms race to an even more dangerous level.

Together with the other peace-loving forces of our planet, the Soviet Union is making a vigorous effort to prevent the deployment of this new and particularly inhuman means of mass destruction. "Our position on this question," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said at the 18th Komsomol Congress, "is perfectly simple and practical. There is still time too for the relevant states to reach agreement on the mutual renunciation of the production of this weapon. Let mankind be spared its appearance once and for all."

The security of the people of Europe and the whole world will not be achieved by building up the arms race and seeking new and even more dangerous avenues leading to the attainment of "nuclear superiority," but by curbing this race and reaching agreements on limiting and then completely liquidating all kinds of nuclear weapons--strategic and tactical--together with the obligatory observance of the principle of equality and identical security for the sides. The Soviet Union's proposals in this connection are widely known. It has proposed that an understanding be reached on a total halt to the further quantitative and qualitative growth of arms and armed forces belonging to states with a large military potential, thus creating conditions for their subsequent reduction. The USSR urges the implementation, over a definite limited period, of a program incorporating a halt to the production of all kinds of nuclear weapons; a halt to the production of and a ban on all other types of mass destruction weapons; a halt to the creation of a new type of highly destructive conventional weapons; a commitment not to expand armies or increase conventional arms by the powers which are permanent members of the Security Council, or by countries allied to them by military agreements.

This is a genuinely realistic path which, if followed, could lead to the safeguarding of peace on earth and the security of the peoples.

NATO DEFENSE PLANNING, ZAIRE INTERVENTION HIT

LD250859Y Moscow TRUD in Russian 23 May 78 p 1 LD

[Yu. Babich untitled international review answering readers' letters]

[Excerpt] In Their Old Positions

[Question] Tell us please about the decisions taken at the recent sessions of the North Atlantic bloc military organs. (I. Sokolov, Murmansk).

At last week's meeting in Evere, a Brussels suburb, of the defense ministers and chiefs of staff of the NATO member countries the traditional spring sessions of the leading organs of this military bloc began. They will conclude with the regular session of the NATO Council, which will be held from 30 through 31 May in Washington at heads of state and government level.

The sessions of the North Atlantic bloc's leading organs are being held at the same time as the UN General Assembly special session on disarmament is being prepared. One might have thought that the exceptional importance of the problems which will be discussed at the session might have prompted the NATO figures to put forward some concrete initiatives in the interests of curbing the arms race and furthering the process of detente. But it was not to be: The NATO leaders prefer to back out with nothing but general declarations on the "desire" for detente. In practice they adhere to a completely different course.

Thus, at the session in Evere the NATO countries defense ministers, under pressure from the U.S. delegation, approved a program for stepping up the bloc's military might for the period through 1995.

At the same time nearly all the NATO member countries, as NATO Secretary General Luns announced, confirmed their agreement to an annual 3-percent increase in military budgets.

Typically these decisions, which obviously go against the spirit of the times, were again motivated by the nonexistent "Soviet military threat." With profuse talk about this mythical "threat" the NATO rignleaders are trying to whip up the arms race, which has reached tremendous proportions, to prevent political detente from spreading to the military sphere and to protect the selfish interests of the military-industrial monopolies.

All these acts confirm again and again that the policy of the NATO military bloc's leaders radically contradicts the interests of the peoples and the interests of consolidating world peace.

Selfish Aims

[Question] What provoked the imperialist intervention in Zaire? (Ye. Borisova, Voskresensk, Moskovskaya Oblast).

There are a number of reasons for the NATO member countries' intervention in the internal conflict in Zaire, where fighting is continuing between the forces of the national liberation front and the troops of Mobutu's government.

One of them is the Western powers' desire to use any means to guarantee, as the French newspaper LE MONDE admits, their capital investments in Zaire. According to the newspaper's figures, Belgian investments there total $800 million, French total $20 million, British--$60 million and West German--$80 million. A large proportion of these capital investments are in the province of Shaba, where such valuable strategic raw materials as copper and cobalt are mined in large quantities.

At the same time the Western powers view Zaire, located in the center of the African Continent, as an important strategic base for the struggle against national liberation movements in Africa. As the American AP agency stresses, current events in Shaba are being used by the United States and the West in general to "demonstrate their readiness to give speedy and effective support to their allies in Africa."

Finally, the NATO member countries' armed intervention in Zaire is connected, as the French newspaper LE MONDE notes, with their desire to insure the preservation of the large missile base created in the province of Shaba by the West German firm Orbital Transport und Raketen [Otrag]. According to REUTER Otrag intends to carry out regular testing of missiles at this base at the end of May within the framework of NATO's military plans.

It is precisely these selfish aims, and in no way the mythical "foreign interference" by which the NATO countries justify their intervention, which explain their actions in Zaire. It is not without reason that the new neocolonialist actions of the Western powers are being decisively condemned by all the progressive peace-loving forces of our planet.

USSR PROTESTS ANTI-SOVIET PROVOCATIONS IN VIENNA

LD251236Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1217 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Vienna--Hooligan elements carried out an attack yesterday on the Aeroflot mission in Vienna. They smashed a window and scrawled anti-Soviet slogans on the walls.

On the same day a group of persons staged a provocative demonstration in front of the building of the USSR Embassy in Austria.

The USSR Embassy in Austria, in a representation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has protested these actions, which are damaging relations between the Soviet Union and Austria, and has demanded that resolute measures be taken to prevent similar incidents in the future.

ITALY INVESTIGATES SID-CIA INTELLIGENCE LINKS

LD240200Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1432 GMT 23 May 78 LD

[Text] Rome, 23 May--TASS correspondent Vladimir Malyshev reports:

The investigation continues here into the illegal activity of the so-called "Parallel SID"--a secret organization which, the investigators think, was active inside the Defense Information Service (SID) which until recently performed the functions of intelligence and counterintelligence in the country. A report by the chairman of the Council of Ministers published here states that on the basis of an inquiry by the court authorities the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been instructed to demand that the United Stateshand over to Italian judges a copy of a report by Congressman Pike, who headed the Select Committee on Intelligence. The report describes, in particular, the ties between the SID and the CIA.

An investigation into the illegal activities of the "Parallel SID" began several years ago when the court organs began an examination of the subversive intrigues of the "Rosa Dei Venti" neofascist organization and of the unsuccessful putsch of the "Black Prince" Borghese. The papers reported that the investigators managed to establish that the neofascist conspirators were linked to a secret organization existing inside the Italian intelligence service.

The links between the SID and the CIA, and, in particular, the transfer by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency of about $800,000 to the former SID leader General V. Miceli for the organization of an anti-communist campaign in Italy also became known during the investigation.

The activity of the state's special services--a number of leaders of which are suspected of having taken part in subversive conspiracies of neofascists--have for a long time been a target for criticism amongst the country's democratic public. It is well known, for instance, that the former SID leader V. Miceli is at present a deputy of the neofascist party. A reform of the secret services was recently carried out in Italy and the leaders of these services were replaced. Meanwhile, local observers note that the services again turn out to be incapable of effectively defending the interests of the state. Thus, the special services, in particular, also did not manage to find A. Moro, chairman of the National Council of the Christian Democratic Party, who had been kidnapped by a group of terrorists, or prevent his murder.

The democratic parties of Italy are demanding that order be introduced in protecting the country's state interests and that the subversive conspiracies of right-wing forces against the republic be fully disclosed.

SFRY PAPER HITS ANTI-SOVIET REMARKS BY UK GENERAL

LD242241Y Moscow TASS in English 2155 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, May 24, TASS--The paper BORBA published a commentary under the headline "Irresponsible Travelling Salesman", concerning the statement by the British General Cameron during his visit to Peking.

The statement of that leading British military figure to the effect that Britain and China are facing a common enemy, whose capital is Moscow is both naive and at the same time dangerous, writes the Yugoslav paper. The question naturally arises of the purpose of that statement. Was not Cameron guided by Churchill's idea that, being the mightiest power on the European continent, the Soviet Union thereby automatically becomes Britain's chief adversary?

The world, the paper goes on, is at present so closely connected that even minor conflicts are fraught with the danger of outbreak of a world war. This is certainly well known in London and cannot be in its interest.

What, then, can profit the country which is the general's homeland? Perhaps the sales of tanks, aircraft engines, guided missiles or vertical takeoff aircraft? Is it not apparent that pursuing each commercial interests would be like setting fire to a forest in order to light a cigarette? writes BORBA in conclusion.

SOVIET-BRITISH COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED

LD261012Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1500 GMT 25 May 78 LD

["To Develop Mutually Advantageous Cooperation"--TASS headline]

[Text] London, 25 May, (TASS)--The seventh session of the Standing Soviet-British Government Commission on Scientific-Technical and Trade-Economic Cooperation has ended its work here. A protocol was signed in which the results of the implementation of the long-term program for the development of economic, industrial and scientific-technical cooperation were summed up and prospects for the further development of Soviet-British ties in these spheres were mapped out.

The range of scientific-technical and economic cooperation envisaged by the protocol is very broad--from the setting up of industrial complexes to exchange of patents, licenses and industrial and technological experience.

British Prime Minister J. Callaghan received V.A. Kirillin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers for Science and Technology, who is heading the Soviet delegation at the session of the commission. An exchange of opinions on questions of mutual cooperation was held. Questions on the international situation were also touched upon including the problem of detente.

The Government of Great Britain, the prime minister said, considers it essential to develop further bilateral relations with the Soviet Union.

The next session of the intergovernmental Soviet-British commission will be held in Moscow in 1979.

KHADDAM SAYS EGYPT'S FOREIGN POLICY BETRAYS ARAB INTERESTS

LD251216Y Moscow TASS in English 1140 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, May 25, TASS--A just and lasting peace in the Middle East must rest on the complete withdrawal of Israel from the Arab territories seized in 1967 and recognition of the right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and the setting up of their own national state. This was emphasized by A. Khaddam, the foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, in a talk with members of delegations, who had attended an international symposium of students here.

He sharply criticized as-Sadat's capitulatory policy, stressing that the Egyptian president had betrayed the interests of the Egyptian people and the entire Arab nation, abandoned the struggle against the Israeli occupiers and entered into a direct alliance with American imperialism and Zionism. The foreign minister pointed out that the main purpose of the present triple American-Egyptian-Israeli alliance was to use Egypt as a tool for striking blows on the forces of liberation and progress in the Arab world and the African Continent.

He qualified the forces of imperialism, colonialism, Zionism, racialism and reaction as the common enemy of all the peoples who are fighting for national liberation, against aggressive wars, for peace and social progress. That is why, Khaddam said, Syria attaches great importance to the building up and consolidation of a broad Arab front of struggle against imperialism and Zionism, consolidation of its contacts with the national liberation movements, with all the forces of freedom and progress on our planet.

ARAB NEWSPAPERS REPORT AS-SADAT'S 'REPRESSIVE' MEASURES

LD252028Y Moscow TASS in English 1917 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, May 25, TASS--The security bodies and the prosecutors office of Egypt continue a campaign of reprisals against the progressive forces. As the newspaper AL-AKHBAR reported, the prosecutors office issued warrants for arrests of another 26 persons on standard charges of incitement to unrest. Arrests are being made in Cairo, Alexandria and other towns.

It is also reported that the Cairo court endorsed the decision to confiscate another issue of the press organ of the National Progressive Party of Egypt, the newspaper AL-AHALI, under the pretext that it contained articles condemning the measures of the Egyptian Government aimed at liquidation of democratic rights and freedoms of Egyptian citizens. The issue of AL-AHALI that was confiscated also contained a protest of the National Progressive Party against the illegal arrest of 62 of its members.

Beirut, May 25, TASS--Commenting on the measures of the Egyptian authorities against the progressive forces, the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR points out that all this reminds one of the times of McCarthyism and "witch-hunt" in the United States. The spirit of McCarthyism now reigns in Egypt where fundamental human rights are being grossly violated and democratic freedoms are being tampled under foot, the newspaper writes.

As-Sadat intends to withdraw deputies' mandates from a group of members of Egyptian parliament who expressed disagreement with his actions, AS-SAFIR writes. This will be followed by a purge of opposition parties, above all the National Progressive Party, which upholds the interests of the Egyptian masses. Purges will then be made in the mass media, trade unions and the state apparatus. All those who do not support the authorities' repressive measures will be dismissed.

SOVIET SUPPORT CITED DURING YAR GROUP'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

LD252237Y Moscow TASS in English 2140 GMT 25 May 78 LD

["Visit of Goodwill"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 25, TASS--A public delegation of the Yemen Arab Republic was staying in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. The delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister of the Yemen Arab Republic Ahmad Muhammad Haydar.

It was noted during meetings and conversations that public organizations of the two countries attach great importance to the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and of the signing of the first Soviet-Yemeni treaty of friendship and cooperation that falls due this year. Representatives of the Yemeni public pointed to the great contribution of the Soviet state to the deepening of international detente and consolidation of world peace. They expressed gratitude to the Soviet people for disinterested assistance and support of the struggle of the Yemeni people and other Arab peoples for consolidation of their national and economic independence, for establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

ISRAELI SHELLINGS CONTINUE IN LEBANON; CIVILIANS INJURED

LD251330Y Moscow TASS in English 1244 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, May 25, TASS--The Israeli military continue armed provocations in the south of Lebanon. Last night heavy artillery subjected to intensive shelling residential areas in An-Nabatoyah and the nearby village of Arnun. There are injured among the civilian population, many houses were damaged. The Beirut press draws attention to the fact that these criminal acts are being committed despite the deployment of the United Nations force in these areas. Refugees, who had just returned home after Israel's aggression in March, are again streaming from An-Nabatayah to the north.

The Israelis continue to strengthen their positions in the eight-kilometre zone along the Lebanese-Israeli border. Particularly powerful strongholds are being built in the area of the populated localities Sayt Yahun, Al Hamra, Marj Iuyun, Klilay and Bint Jubayl. In a number of areas Israeli military patrols repeatedly intruded yesterday 5-6 kilometres deep into Lebanese territory making searches and arrests among the peaceful population. The situation remains tense in the Lebanese capital and also in Bint Jubayl and Al-Batrun where armed clashes provoked by conservative forces have occurred in recent days.

ARAB STUDENTS IN ISRAEL PROTEST DISCRIMINATION

LD260714Y Moscow TASS in English 0616 GMT 26 May 78 LD

[Text] Rome, May 25, TASS--Israel students-Arabs declared a strike of protest against national discrimination. At a meeting in Tel Aviv they demanded that an end be put to the Israel authorities' policy of stirring up national strife, and that the Arab students be given rights equal to those of the other students. Students of other nationalities expressed their solidarity with the Arabs' struggle. A group of fascistic toughs that tried to interfere with the holding of the meeting was dispersed by the meeting participants.

ECONOMIC, TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN USSR-SUDAN REVIEWED

LD252213Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Nine years ago, on 25 May 1969, the Sudanese Government was overthrown as a result of an armed uprising conducted by the revolutionary officers and supported by other progressive forces. Revolutionary and democratic figures joined the Revolutionary Council and the government that assumed power. Following the revolution, a number of significant social and economic changes, including the nationalization of all foreign banks and the major commercial companies, were carried out in Sudan. Steps were taken to achieve a democratic solution to the problem of national minorities in the southern part of the country, who gained regional autonomy within the framework of the Democratic Republic of Sudan. In its foreign policy, Sudan adopted an anti-imperialist stance and proceeded to develop relations with the progressive Arab states and the socialist countries. The progressive developments of the Democratic Republic of Sudan was being obstructed by the subversive activities of the reactionary and imperialist circles which attempted to keep Sudan within their area of political and economic influence. Acute differences arose within the ranks of the democratic forces concerning methods to achieve the country's future development. These disputes were exploited by the reactionary forces and the imperialist lackeys who attempted to distort the progressive objectives of the May 1969 revolution and liquidate the democratic gains of the Sudanese people.

The Soviet Union, faithful to its international policy, welcomed the May 1969 revolution and supported it. During this period it rendered comprehensive assistance and support to the Democratic Republic of Sudan. Economic cooperation between the two countries assumed a wide and programmed nature. Currently, the Sudanese people can see the fruit of such cooperation. Because of the joint action of Sudanese and Soviet geologists, reserves of natural resources have been discovered in Sudan. With the help of Soviet experts, two huge grain silos were built in Port Sudan and (?Al-Barik), a hospital and laboratories for veterinary research were built in Juba, and a number of food supply establishments and other necessary projects were founded. Hundreds of Sudanese youth received higher education and specialized training at higher educational and secondary specialized institutes in the Soviet Union.

However, this development of Soviet-Sudanese relations did not please the imperialist circles that see in the strengthening of friendship between the Soviet Union and Sudan and other Arab countries a strong barrier that obstructs the implementation of their new imperialist plans. In recent years, these forces have made great efforts to divide the Soviet Union and the Democratic Republic of Sudan. Despite some tactical successes, these forces have failed to achieve their main objective--to compel the Sudanese people to abandon the Soviet Union. In his 30 April speech in Khartoum, President Ja'far Numayri pointed out that the Soviet Union is a mighty international power which has a weight and influence that cannot be ignored, nor can the significance of this influence be belittled. With regard to the Soviet Union, it always bases its policy toward Sudan and the other Arab countries on the principles of respecting these countries' independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as on equal and mutual cooperation. The Soviet people, on the ninth anniversary of the May revolution, sincerely wish the friendly Sudanese people successes in the strengthening of the country's political and economic independence.

CHERNENKO-LED DELEGATION ENDS VISIT TO GREECE

LD251001Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 May 78 p 4 LD

[Text] Athens 23 May, TASS--A CPSU delegation headed by K. U. Chernenko, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, left for home today after participating in the 10th Communist Party of Greece [KKE] Congress.

Before leaving Athens K. U. Chernenko made the following statement:

We are flying home with a sense of great satisfaction. The 10th KKE Congress was a big event in your country's life and in the life of the communist movement.

In our view, the congress confirmed that Greek communists are able to uphold the vital interests of the working class and all working people.. Your party's consistent principledness and its unshakable loyalty to Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, combined with a profound sense of the new and with tactical flexibility and an ability to find new forms of work in keeping with the demands of the moment, are a guarantee of further successes for the KKE.

We wish your party great successes in the struggle for peace and social progress.

I think that the congress has also made a contribution to the strengthening of Greek-Soviet relations. I had the chance to talk today about their further development with Prime Minister Mr K. Karamanlis and Foreign Minister Y. Rallis. We hope that relations between our countries will acquire a fresh dynamism. We in the Soviet Union want this.

In conclusion, I want to thank the Greek communists and all residents of Athens for their hospitality. We wish the Greek people peace, happiness and prosperity.

At the airport the delegation was seen off by Kh. Florakis, general secretary of the KKE Central Committee, and other KKE leaders, and by I. I. Udaltsov, Soviet ambassador to Greece.

The same day, the CPSU delegation headed by K. U. Chernenko arrived back in Moscow. The delegation comprised F. T. Morgun, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Poltavskiy Ukrainian CP Obkom, and V. V. Zagladin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section.

At the airport the delegation was greeted by B. N. Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; B. P. Bugayev and G. S. Pavlov, members of the CPSU Central Committee; S. K. Tsvigun, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee; K. M. Bogolyukov, member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission; and V. S. Shaposhnikov, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section.

Athens Talks

LD251003Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 May 78 p 4 LD

[Text] Athens, 23 May, TASS--Greek Prime Minister K. Karamanlis received K.U. Chernenko, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today. They discussed questions of interest to the two countries.

The same day, K.U. Chernenko met Greek Foreign Minister Y. Rallis.

A meeting took place here between V.V. Zagladin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section, and A. Papandreou, chairman of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement opposition party.

During the conversation the sides exchanged opinions on questions of Soviet-Greek relations and the development of the situation in the Mediterranean area.

The meeting took place in a frank and friendly atmosphere.

GREEK PEACE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

LD241226Y Moscow TASS in English 0903 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 24 TASS--A delegation of the Greek Committee for the Relaxation of International Tensions and Peace has arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Peace Committee. The delegation is headed by Amelia Fleming, member of Parliament, member of the leadership of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement Party, president of the Association of Women Research Workers.

Members of the delegation were received at the Soviet Peace Committee. They discussed questions connected with the intensification of the campaign by broad public forces for disarmament, against the manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction, including neutron weapons.

The guests from Greece emphasized the importance of the new Soviet initiatives directed at ending the arms race, prohibiting nuclear weapons and at disarmament. They noted the big contribution made by the Soviet Union to the cause of easing international tensions and strengthening peace.

TASS REPORTS ON OPENING OF AKEL CONGRESS

LD252254Y Moscow TASS in English 2235 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Nicosia, May 25, TASS--The 14th Congress of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL) began its work here today. Its agenda includes a report of the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission, matters of the party's organisational work, and election of the AKEL's leading bodies.

The congress is being attended by about a thousand delegates. Present at the congress are also the delegates of more than thirty fraternal communist and workers' parties and national liberation movements. A CPSU delegation is headed by Yakov Ryabov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Ezekias Papaioannou, general secretary of the AKEL, made a speech on the report of the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission. Describing the international situation he emphasized that the alignement of forces in the world arena is steadily changing in favour of socialism, democracy and national independence.

The speaker highly appreciated the decisive role of the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community in ensuring the success of the liberation struggle of peoples.

The activities of the CPSU and the Soviet state, Ezekias Papaioannou said, vividly illustrate what heights the working people who came to power and who are guided by Marxism-Leninism can achieve. The Soviet Union under the leadership of its Leninist party headed by Leonid Brezhnev confidently proceeds along the road towards the best society on earth--communism.

Touching upon the problem of Cyprus, the speaker said its essence is in the imperialist conspiracy against Cyprus, in the unceasing foreign interference in its internal affairs, and in the remaining occupation of 40 percent of the island's territory.

The AKEL party, he emphasized, will in every way struggle for a just settlement in Cyprus in the interests of both Greek and Turkish communities. The AKEL holds that the realisation of the Soviet proposal on the convocation of a widely representative international conference on Cyprus within the U.N. framework would be the best way to take the Cyprus question out of deadlock and to remove many of the now existing obstacles which interfere with a settlement.

Our party, guided by the invincible teaching of Marxism-Leninism and principles of proletarian internationalism, faithfully serves the interests of the Cyprus people, Ezekias Papaioannou said in conclusion. It is not fortuitous therefore that the AKEL is now the biggest party of Cyprus, both by its numeric strength and its influence among the people. The historical task of the party is to bring the working people of Cyprus to a socialist society. At the present stage, the AKEL's main task is to struggle for a just solution to the Cyprus problem, for the demilitarisation of the island, for Cyprus to become a really independent, sovereign, territorially integral and non-aligned state.

ZAIRE, BELGIUM, FRANCE RESPONSIBLE FOR SHABA MASSACRES

LD242230Y Moscow TASS in English 2213 GMT 24 May 78 LD

["Their 'Humanism'..."--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 24, TASS--TASS news analyst Sergey Kulik writes:

Thus, if one is to believe the bourgeois propaganda, the fresh Western intervention in Africa was mounted with a "humanistic aim" for the evacuation of white specialists, who worked in Zaire's Shaba Province, from the zone of military operations. Trying to justify this unprecedented interference of NATO powers in the internal affairs of an African country, the Western mass media are trying to pass over in silence the fact that the uprising in Shaba is directed not against the Europeans, but against the Kinshasa regime, and are disregarding the guarantees for the security of foreigners given by the leaders of the uprising. At the same time they are picturing from purely racist positions "bloodthirsty blacks" and reporting on the hunt for white people, which allegedly took place in Shaba. Analysing the methods of deception of public opinion used on these days by the bourgeois press, radio and television, the French L'HUMANITE notes: "While tendentiously covering the actions of the rebels, the press is tight-lipped when it comes to reports on stories by refugees from Zaire, which do not justify the military intervention in that country.

Meanwhile, this testimony by eyewitnesses scattered over numerous foreign publications, printed at times in small type or deliberately tucked away at the very bottom of a newspaper page, give a real picture of the events in Zaire radically differing from the official version.

To start with, contrary to official claims of Kinshasa that the uprising in Shaba was started from the outside and did not have local roots, those who lived in the province testify to the contrary. The whole of the population of Kolwezi supported the rebels, a correspondent of the newspaper LE MONDE was told by a refugee. The Mobutu soldiers are unpopular there. They had made it a rule to take away money from miners on the pay day." Another Belgian refugee told a FRANCE PRESS AGENCY correspondent: "The whole population of Kolwezi looked forward to the arrival of the rebels, because they have had enough of the disgraceful Kinshasa regime backed by the West.

After coming to the aid of the unpopular regime, French Legionnaires and Belgian soldiers staged a real massacre in Kolwezi and other towns of Shaba so as then to blame the rebels for the mass murder of whites. The rumours about the atrocities of French paratroopers have become widespread, the London FINANCIAL TIMES wrote. Soldiers of the Foreign Legion, who were airlifted to Kolwezi immediately made their presence felt. They indiscriminately fired at everybody without caring to ask who was a rebel and who was simply a passer-by.

Belgian officers, the REUTER agency reported, said that French paratroopers who were not controlled by anyone immediately killed six whites after landing in Kolwezi. There was no denial from Paris of this report.

A correspondent of the Brussels newspaper LE SOIR describing the acts of French Legionnaires admitted: "They opened fire on everything that was moving. They finished off four Belgians in front of me. They killed innocent people and did not count Africans as human beings."

Many Belgian specialists, who were turned over by their rescuers to representatives of the Zaire Army, died at the hands of Mobutu soldiers. "One of the refugees, a certain Raymond Korcak was quoted by an AFP correspondent as saying that the Zaire soldiers killed in cold blood some thirty Europeans in house number R-2 of a mining village. The Mobutu soldiers, he explained, came for these people allegedly with the aim of taking them to the airport. But on their way there they took them into one of the houses and mowed them down there. It was a real slaughter, for which only the Zaire Army is responsible. We were afraid of this army more than of the rebels, who behaved themselves orderly and displayed good discipline."

Many foreign newspapers admit that both as a result of the atrocities of the Legionnaires and because the interventionists came to the assistance of the unpopular Kinshasa regime the attitude of the African population to the European has sharply worsened. The French newspaper LE FIGARO writes that the action in Zaire may for many years to come jeopardise the future of whites in that country."

Facts thus indicate that it is the so-called white rescuers who are to blame for the bloodbath in Zaire and aggravation of the situation in that country. This conclusion is drawn by the British newspaper MORNING STAR. Everything indicates, the newspaper points out, that the pretext of the necessity to rescue the Europeans from Shaba was used as a cover for the intervention in Zaire by imperialist states. The so-called humanistic "rescue mission" has turned into what it was to be from the very outset: manhunt with the aim of rescuing the neocolonialist Mobutu regime.

Soviet Group's Condemnation

LD252018Y Moscow TASS in English 1921 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 25, TASS--In connection with the imperialist aggression in Zaire, the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee came out with a statement in which it pointed out that imperialists of the United States, France and other NATO countries are striving to create in Zaire a bridgehead for fighting African peoples.

The statement says that Western propaganda centres launched a wide campaign to mislead the world public opinion, to cast aspersion on the Soviet Union principled policy of non-interference in internal affairs of other states, the policy of respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity and invariable support of the national liberation struggle of peoples against imperialism, colonialism and all forms of racism.

The Soviet people, the statement says, declare resolutely for ending without delay and foreign interference in Zaire's internal affairs, for immediate withdrawal of foreign troops, and urge the progressive forces of the world to thwart the plot of imperialism and neocolonialism against independence of African countries and peoples.

European, African Reaction

LD252130Y Moscow TASS in English 2100 GMT 25 May 78 LD

["NATO's Intervention in Zaire is a Threat to Independent Africa"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 25, TASS--The foreign interventionists' troops that intruded into Zaire continue committing outrages in Shaba Province (formerly Katanga). They conduct punitive operations already thirty kilometers away from Kolwezi and, as is reported by the Paris LE MATIN, move further and further from the city. Kolwezi itself looks like a desolate city. Local residents do not even dare to appear in the streets.

The newspaper's correspondent admits that the population of villages is extremely hostile to NATO legionnaires. The command of the French Expeditionary Corps in Zaire is demanding reinforcements. The French Legionnaires, LE MATIN writes, absolutely cannot rely on the Zairian Army which demonstrated its utter helplessness. Moreover, the newspaper points out, local population hate the government troops that engage in plunder and violence.

Today, as a FRANCE PRESSE correspondent reports, French Legionnaires launched an operation against rebels, the biggest operation in the past week.

In an attempt to justify the expansion of the NATO aggression, the official Western press is busy spreading rumours that detachments of rebels are allegedly taking away with them foreign hostages to beyond Zaire. The Paris newspaper LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS points in this connection to a possibility that French troops will use the 'right of pursuit' for an invasion of Angolan territory.

The London DAILY TELEGRAPH writes that although reports as to presence of hostages among rebels were not confirmed, they can serve as a pretext to justify a further stay of French paratroopers in Shaba Province.

A representative of the Front for the Liberation of the Congo stated in Brussels that detachments of rebels when retreating from Kolwezi did not take any hostages from among civilian population. Nevertheless, the French Government already applied to Angola and Zambia in a request to take measures for the release of Frenchmen who 'may find themselves in the territory of those countries as hostages of Katanga rebels'.

Hence it is clear that the so-called 'right of pursuit', which the Western press is now busy talking about, should be viewed as far-fetched and provocative pretext aimed at expanding military actions in Zaire and transferring them to neighbouring independent countries.

White House Press Secretary Powell confirmed that chief advisers to U.S. President Carter are now busy discussing the question of a possibility of rendering military support to pro-Western groupings of Angola.

The press of African countries describes the armed intervention in Zaire as a new conspiracy by Western powers--members of NATO against independent Africa. Free Africa is resolutely rejecting the policy of new colonisation of the continent and emphasizes the necessity of enhancing vigilance for organizing a rebuff to NATO's aggressive aspirations in Africa.

The KENYAN DAILY NEWS writes that imperialist powers seek to use Zaire's territory as a place d'armes for undermining the sovereignty of independent states of the continent and the national-liberation movement in Africa's south. The newspaper points out that the Government of Zaire practically farmed Shaba Province, which is being turned into a rocket range, out to Western monopolies. This puts in jeopardy the security of neighbouring countries.

Algerian President Houari Boumediene said the true cause of the foreign intervention in Zaire is not the defence of Europeans, as the foreign press asserts, but the attempt to keep hold of copper, cobalt, gold, and other minerals, to keep dominance over the strategically important area of Africa and to suppress the mounting liberation movement. Attempts are being made today to establish a new, more dangerous, form of colonialism in Africa, the president emphasized.

On Zaire's example, free Africa again came to see for itself the ominous aggressive essence of NATO, said Lennox, member of the leadership of the African National Congress of South Africa. Imperialist powers flagrantly interfered in the internal affairs of that country, without giving themselves trouble to produce any verbal justifications. The act of NATO military interference in Zaire reminds one of the most gloomy times of imperialist dominance in the world when so-called 'gunboat diplomacy' was a rule.

The present developments in Zaire, Radio Tripoli stated, vividly show the true aspect of imperialist powers which usually hid under the mask of "friends of African peoples". The overt armed aggression by France, Belgium, the USA, Britain, and other Western powers in Zaire is aimed at consolidating the dominance of big monopolistic associations of the West in Africa, at weakening the national-liberation movement and keeping the capitalist influence of the West in African states.

Beglian Statement

ID260626Y Moscow TASS in English 0551 GMT 26 May 78 LD

[Text] Bonn May 26 TASS--The Belgian Government is not going yet to withdraw the two Belgian paratroops battalions from Zaire's Shaba Province. A statement to this effect was made by Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans in an interview with the West German television. On the first days of the intervention of the NATO countries in Zaire, the official Brussels claimed that the mission of the Belgian troops sent to Shaba Province was confined to evacuation of Europeans from there. Now practically all Europeans have left the area, but Belgian troops remain there.

Leo Tindemans tried to substantiate this decision by the fact that in his opinion "the conflict in Zaire has not been settled yet".

U.S. Admission

ID260546Y Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] The White House press secretary, Jody Powell, has admitted that no Cubans have taken part in the military operations in Zaire's Shaba Province. Jody Powell said this information had been confirmed by data collected by the CIA and other Western intelligence services. The admission shows that the allegations of Western propaganda about Cuba's involvement in Shaba's uprising were totally unfounded. The lie was used as a coverup for NATO military intervention in Zaire.

NATO Countries' Intervention

ID252230Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program with Gennadiy Ariyevich]

[Text] As is clear from the reports of various news agencies, the NATO countries are widening their intervention in Zaire. The French paratroopers who landed in Shaba Province under the pretext of protecting the Europeans have entered Lubumbashi, Kipushi and Bukasi. A threat has arisen to the security of Angola and Zambia, which border on Zaire. The Zambian news agency has reported that it would repulse any attempts to violate its border. An active part in the NATO intervention in Zaire is played by the United States, which made its aircraft available for the landing. At the airport of Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire, there are nine American C-141 transport aircraft, which delivered heavy arms and equipment for the interventionists. In Washington the question of additional support for the intervention troops and for the Mobutu government is being studied.

According to news agency reports, President Carter is seeking to obtain congressional agreement to drop restrictions on direct U.S. interference in Africa.

China has spoken out in defense of the actions of the West in connection with Zairian events. Its leaders also slanderously attacked the socialist countries, accusing them of participation in the Zairian conflict.

The commander of the French paratroopers which have occupied the Zairian town of Kolwezi has stated that his detachments will remain there until they are relieved. According to him, the AFP correspondent reports, this will not take place before the end of 3 weeks. Thus, the short-term operation to rescue Europeans is gradually being turned into a protracted occupation.

The paratroopers are continuing their military actions in the Kolwezi area. The insurgents are putting up a stubborn resistance. In Kolwezi itself their snipers are still active.

Neighboring States Threatened

DW260849Y Moscow in German to Germany 1618 GMT 25 May 78 DW

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] [Unidentified moderator] The NATO countries are expanding their armed intrusion in Zaire. This is a brief survey of the latest events in this African country.

[Unidentified commentator] The United States continues to play an active role in the implementation of this collective intervention. A State Department spokesman announced that Washington is considering the possibility of additional support for the troops in Zaire. The statement by official French sources that French troops in Zaire will return home after completing the search for missing foreigners and hostages, merely serves to conceal the extension of military acts in Zaire.

According to news agency reports, paratroopers of the French Foreign Legion have begun a large-scale operation west of Kolwezi. The Western powers seek to extend their aggression to Zaire's neighbors as well. According to the official Zambian news agency, ZNA, a Zambian border outpost between the administrative center of Zaire's Shaba Province and the town of Lubumbashi was bombed.[as heard]

Angola, too, is voicing justified concern about the action of the NATO countries in Zaire, particulary, the interventionists' combat actions in the vicinity of Angola's borders. [name indistinct], member of the Central Committee Politburo of the MPLA Labor Party, declared that the imperialists are attempting to misuse the internal situation in Zaire for their subversive purposes and employ Zaire as a bridgehead for their subversive activities against progressive African States. This is also indicated by U.S. President Carter's meeting with a group of senators on 23 May. The Washington POST cites statements by Senator Richard Clark. After this meeting, he declared that it becomes more and more clear that the U.S. President wants to engage the country in another interference in Angola.

The reports from Zaire show the mendacity of the contentions by the NATO countries that they interfered in the Zaire conflict to save the land [as heard] of the Europeans. The interventionists, along with the pilferers from the Zairian Army unleashed a veritable terror in Kolwezi whose victims were the very Europearns they proposed to save. The interventionists behave like outright racistis in Africa. The Foreign Legion is shooting at Africans on sight. As far as they are concerned, the blacks do not count, the Belgian paper LE SOIR writes.

Attempt To Recolonize Africa

LD251025Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 May 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[IZVESTIYA political observer V. Kudryavtsev article: "Zaire: Aggression on a Broad Base"]

[Text] If you read the newspapers and listen to the radio about what is happening in the southern Zaire Province of Shaba, the thought comes to mind involuntarily: This has all happened before--perhaps on a smaller scale, and perhaps the bigoted reasoning of American propaganda was not broadcast so loudly, but it has happened! And however hard imperialist propaganda tries to present events in Zaire as some "extraordinary occurrence" without antecedents, facts indicate otherwise. Mankind, unlike certain U.S. leaders, does not have amnesia; it remembers very well everything that happened in the heart of the African Continent in the sixties.

There was the very same Shaba, only it was called Katanga. It had the same reserves of copper ore and other minerals that has attracted the attention of international monopolies. There were the same heartrending cries about the need to "rescue" Europeans in what was then the Congo with its capital, Kinshasa, although in general it was a question of rescuing Africans from cruel exploitation by the European colonizers.

Then there was also talk about "collective colonialism," since everyone was "saving" the collapsing Belgian Colony--the British, the French, the Americans--saving it for international monopolies. The characteristics of this kind of "collective colonialism" was revealed in 1962 by the monthly (?AFRICA TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT), which wrote that American capital is trying to "replace the preceding era of the separate exploitation of Africa, based on competition between European states, by some form of planned exploitation of the continent as a whole, gradually subordinating it to American leadership." Surely this is also relevant for the late seventies of the 20th century?

For if there is not complete consistency in the policy of successive U.S. presidents, there is a very rigid consistency in the policy of American imperialism. Remember the series of speeches, decisive for the new administration, by U.S. Secretary of State C. Vance on American policy in Asia and Africa in 1977. They show that, apart from maintaining their bridgehead in South Africa, U.S. ruling circles are virtually claiming the whole of Africa, regarding it as some kind of raw materials continuation of the U.S. economic system. But above all both the secretary of state and the press, in commenting on his stance, drew attention to the special U.S. interests in Nigeria (and this was highlighted by J. Carter's visit to Nigeria, the first visit to an African country by an American President in the United States), Zaire and the Sudan. So what about "rescuing the foreigners" who were in the city of Kolwezi? The United States intends to rescue something bigger, namely its promising domination in Africa, with which it has been concerned in recent decades.

The motive of "rescuing" Europeans resembles a worn coin. Is it really necessary, in the seventies, to mobilize considerable armed forces simply to rescue a few hundred Europeans in Shaba? Why was it necessary for the "security" of Europeans for French Legionnaires to carry out combat actions against the rebels, who were acting not against Europeans but against the Zaire authorities? Because the imperialist are using the "rescue of Europeans" to disguise the desire to use force to maintain the existing situation in Zaire, which does not suit its people but certainly suits the countries taking part in "collective colonialism."

There is no doubt of this, if you take into account the clear and precise statement made on French television by French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud. "This operation," he said, "is being carried out at the request of the Zaire Government, in full agreement with the Belgian Government (which apparently still considers itself the guardian of Zaire--V.K.), in cooperation with the American Government, which has supplied transportation facilities, and in contact with other European governments, in particular that of Britain."

All this is very much like the well-known story in which a whole family, including Zhuchka, the cat, and the mouse, pulled up the turnip. Also like the story is the fact that the U.S. leaders allot themselves the part of the mouse--no more. Thus on 19 May U.S. President J. Carter said literally this to provincial newspaper editors: "We are playing a very limited part there. We are giving some rear support, helping to take out some of the citizens of other countries who are in the Kolwezi region, guided by considerations of humanity." Almost the same thing was said in the Sixties--not even the "humanity" was left out (let us recall that this humanity in relation to "citizens of other countries" resulted in many thousands of deaths for the Zairian people in the Sixties).

And this is what White House Representative J. Powell said on the subject, reporting that Washington had acceded to the request of France, Belgium and Zaire and already begun (this was said on 20 May) "flying ammunition, aircraft fuel, communications equipment and air transport to Zaire." According to him, 18 C-141 military transport planes are taking part in this operation, all of which are flown by American pilots. That is what the "instrument of humanity" of the neocolonialists looks like in practice.

In the light of all that has been said the anti-Soviet grounds for the present collective intervention by the imperialists in Zaire seem weak, coming from Washington and other NATO interventionists. They try to attribute all events taking place on the African Continent to "Soviet-Cuban interference" in Africa's internal political affairs. Things go as far as uniformed hallucinations: Cuban soldiers are "seen" anywhere and everywhere people want to see them. Zaire Foreign Minister Umba-Di-Lutete beat the record in this matter when he simply said that he and his colleagues "are confident that the rebels of the so-called Congo Liberation Front are receiving help via the Cuban and Soviet general headquarters." No more and no less....

At the same time A. Young, U.S. representative at the United Nations, who is in essence in charge of all African affairs, stated on 20 May that he "saw no evidence of Cuban or Soviet participation in the African conflict."

The cries of American propaganda about Soviet and Cuban "interference" are aimed at masking and concealing the glaring facts of interference by the United States and its allies in the internal affairs of the African peoples. President J. Carter stated that the United States "is trying to promote the strengthening of the OAU and to convince black leaders in Africa that the problems of this continent can be best resolved by the people living in Africa itself." And what about the U.S. support of the splittist organizations in Angola and the attempt to split the OAU on the Angolan problem? And what about the direct U.S. interference in the affairs of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in an attempt to transform it into a puppet state? And what about the interference of the five powers--the United States, Britain, France, the FRG and Canada--in the affairs of Namibia, which only the people of Namibia itself are justified in settling and whose only lawful representative is SWAPO? And how, if not as interference in events in the Horn of Africa, can one describe the policy of the United States, which indirectly supplied the aggressor with arms?

The current interference by the United States and other NATO forces in the internal affairs of Zaire has a number of extremely dangerous aspects for Africa. As AP reported, circles close to the President are asserting that U.S. operations in Zaire have given the White House the chance to demonstrate that it and other NATO countries can respond quickly and effectively to the needs of America's allies in Africa. As the French press reports, Senegalese troops could be sent to Zaire; in the words of observers, Senegalese support is "in all probability the beginning of the creation of African armed forces which could take over from the French and Belgian military after the latter have restored order in Shaba in the very near future." This is what the imperialists are dreaming about: strangling some Africans with the hands of other Africans. One other thing must be taken into consideration, namely that the reactionary governments of several African countries are prepared to offer their territory as bases for imperialist actions in Africa.

The false legend about the "extraordinary incident" in Zaire ceases to affect or influence public opinion in the light of the facts. The U.S. imperialists and their allies are acting according to a plan worked out in advance for the recolonialization of Africa, about which the imperialists have not ceased to dream since the events of the sixties.

However, life itself, manifest in today's Africa in the form of a powerful national liberation movement, is making decisive amendments to these plans. It is prompting the imperialists to hurry, to mutter high-sounding nonsence in their propaganda and--the main point--to say one thing and do another. They will not hold out for long in this, since they are dealing with awakened peoples.

No one can turn back the history of Africa. The African peoples will continue to tread the path of struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism, for peace, freedom, independence and social progress. In this respect the peoples of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries were and will remain completely on the side of the struggling peoples of Africa, and no slander can break the friendship and cooperation between our peoples.

PONOMAREV MEETS ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT DELEGATION

LD251804Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Ulyanovskiy, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, have met with a delegation of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front led by Nkomo, leader of the front and president of Zapu, which has arrived in the USSR.

Nkomo told of the struggle which the people of Zimbabwe are conducting for the freedom and true independence of their homeland. He expressed profound gratitude to the Soviet people and the CPSU for their all-round help and support for the Zimbabwe patriots, and for all the fighters against colonialism and racialism in Africa.

The CPSU representatives expressed solidarity with the just struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, and stressed that the Soviet people resolutely support the earliest and unconditional surrender of all power in the country to its genuine representatives--the Patriotic Front.

PROBLEMS OF AFRICA LINKED TO WORLD PEACE, DETENTE

LD251102Y Moscow TASS in English 1025 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 25 TASS--TASS political commentator Sergey Kulik writes:

The Africa Liberation Day marked on May 25 coincides this year with the 15th anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). And, perhaps, it would be no exaggeration to say that all these years the problems of Africa and African unity have never attracted such a great attention, have never been so closely linked with the fortunes of international peace and detente, as now.

Africa, which yet until recently was considered a "political backyard" of the world, has all of a sudden turned into one of the politically active zones of our planet. Why this is so? Having cast off the yoke of colonialism, the black continent started talking at full voice. Practically all African countries, to (?that) extent or other are now carrying out anti-imperialist transformations, are actively upholding their political and economic rights in the fight against neo-colonialism. They hold 49 out of 149 seats at the United Nations, where African states at one with other countries of the Third World ever more frequently put up a united front with its natural ally--the countries of the socialist community.

Exactly this anti-imperialist policy of Africa, its strengthening and expanding links with the socialist countries have lately become the main object of vigorous attacks from international reaction which, under the cover of demagogic declarations on allegedly "new" political course towards Africa, is carrying out the old "divide and rule" policy. With this aim, imperialist circles in the West have taken the road of overt interfering into affairs of African states, fanning up strife and fratricidal wars between neighbours, provoking territorial and tribal conflicts. Downright attempts are being made to bring Africa back to what that continent departed from never to return--division of the continent into zones of influence with the help of all sorts of military minibloes and separate economic alliances, which are being knocked together under the NATO aegis, and which tie developing states to imperialist powers.

The analysis of the geography of this "new" policy of Western countries shows that it is primarily leveled against countries of a socialist orientation: Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, Benin, the Republic of Guinea, Congo. At the same time Washington and its NATO allies openly resort to overt intervention (as is now happening in Zaire) in order to give aid to the neo-colonialist regimes which are to their liking.

The racist regimes in the south of Africa are being more vigorously drawn into realization of imperialist policy in the continent. The main aim of the United States and Britain in that region is not to promote radical changes there, that would meet the interests of the African majority. Their main aim in that area is to create only a semblance of Western countries' striving for changes. Such a tactic makes it possible for the racists to gain time, to consolidate their positions, to make short work of patriots and thereby try to further their plans which run counter to the interests of free Africa.

Trying to distract the public opinion from such imperialist policy and to justify Western overt interference into internal affairs of African states, bourgeois propaganda has lately launched an unprecedented anti-Soviet campaign, fanning up the myth of the imaginary "Soviet menace" in Africa. But the peoples of the continent realize full well who are their enemies and who are friends.

"The Soviet Union's stand towards the emergent states of Africa and other continents is clear and unambiguous, says a message of greetings from Leonid Brezhnev to the states and peoples of Africa on the occasion of the Africa Liberation Day. Our country is doing its utmost to promote development of friendly and fruitful cooperation with them, supports their struggle for consolidation of political and economic independence, for the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and equitable basis.

We stand for the right of every people to choose their way of development...What binds us with the African peoples is deep devotion to peace which we, as all people on earth, need for creative labour."

MINISTRY HOSTS AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY RECEPTION

LD252028Y Moscow TASS in English 2003 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 25, TASS--The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a reception today for the heads of dipomatic representations of the African countries, accredited in the USSR, on the occasion of the Africa Liberation Day. Yakov Malik, deputy foreign minister, addressed the ambassadors with the message of greetings.

Victor Ngaw, the ambassador of the Central African Empire, spoke on behalf of the African countries.

Leaders of a number of Soviet societies of friendship with African peoples were present at the reception.

On the same day, heads of the diplomatic representations of the African countries, accredited in the Soviet Union, gave a reception to mark the African Liberation Day.

Antas Barkausaks, the vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, was present at the reception.

NIGERIAN LEADER PRAISES SOVIET SUPPORT OF AFRICAN STATES

LD251608Y Moscow TASS in English 1608 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Lagos, May 25, TASS--The Soviet Union is invariably conducting a policy of support for the emergent African states. It helps them attain real economic and political independence, eliminate the vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid in the continent. This has been stated here by head of the state of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo.

The head of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has pointed out that the Soviet Union builds its relations with African countries on an equal and equitable foundation. This is illustrated, he said, by diversified mutually-beneficial cooperation between Nigeria and the USSR.

WEST BEGINS ANTISOCIALIST TIRADE AFTER AFGHAN COUP

LD2514O1Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 21, 19 May 78 pp 8-9 LD

[D. Volskiy article: "Flowers and Venom"]

[Text] The revolutionary changes which have started in yet another developing country--Afghanistan--have produced such a familiar reaction in the rightwing Western press that it is difficult not to recall the theory of conditioned reflexes. In complete conformity with this theory, certain political commentators, having little familiarity with the program of progressive reforms proclaimed by the new Kabul regime, launched into discourses on the same old hackneyed themes.

The primary theme is that of "Moscow's participation" in the events in Afghanistan. "Some people have already perceived in the coup in Afghanistan," Britain's THE OBSERVER notes ironically, "yet further proof of Soviet expansion." These "people" are not embarrassed by anything. They are unabashed by the refutations issued by the Afghan leadership, and by the ridiculous nature of their own arguments, like the London FINANCIAL TIMES' assertion that during the events in Kabul "some people visited" at the Soviet Embassy and "some people emerged from there." Common sense and logic are of little concern to those who favor anti-Soviet insinuations. Only one thing is important to them: to cast aspersions on the policy of the USSR.

AFP commentator (D. Eykem) alleges that the Soviet Union seeks to "gain access", with Afghanistan's help, "to the Gulf of Oman and, thereby, to the Indian Ocean." But, if the U.S. journalist W. Safire is to be believed, the Soviet Union has already "seized Afghanistan"--no more and no less. Moreover, it has not simply seized Afghanistan but has done this in an effort to "intimidate" and "threaten" Afghanistan's neighbors, and finally, "to show the entire world that the United States lacks the will or the ability to react to this."

Stop, says the reader, something similar has been encountered somewhere else. But not once has this been confirmed by the development of events. Afghanistan is indeed a long way from Africa, and the situation there is quite different. Nevertheless, almost the same expressions were used, with only the geographical names altered. When people were writing, for instance, about the liberated Portuguese colonies 2 or 3 years ago, Moscow was reproached not only for desiring to "lay its hands" on these countries, but also for creating a path to the riches of southern Africa and "cutting" the sea routes around the Cape of Good Hope, which are important for the West.

If these allegations are true, where are the "Soviet bases" in Africa and the "pro-Soviet blocs" with which the Western press intimidates its readers, and where are the concessions and other attributes of "expansion"? They remain in the imagination of the authors of these fabrications. Nowhere in the developing countries is the USSR seeking special advantages or any privileges. Actually, it is not this that the imperialist circles fear. They are disturbed by something else: the USSR's friendly relations with the developing states and its support for the peoples' aspirations. This, and nothing else, is implied by the "interference" of Moscow. However, slanders of this kind have a false bottom and a secret goal.

Here is an example: H. Kissinger, former U.S. secretary of state, spoke recently about "the exceptionally important strategic significance" of the Horn of Africa region. As if anticipating the present discourses about Washington's "will or ability", the former secretary of state reproached the U.S. Government for "inaction" in the face of "Soviet interference": "The United States' inaction," he said, "could bring disaster."

But if there is something that could bring disaster, it is not the imagined Soviet "interference," nor the equally illusive "inaction" of the United States. As is known, Washington is very active in the Red Sea zone, in the Arabian Peninsula and in the Middle East region, primarily in the military sphere. The United States, along with other NATO countries, supplies its numerous "clients" there with weapons. U.S. diplomacy seeks to reinvigorate CENTO, and create "security pacts" in the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea basin. Is it necessary to say that it is this kind of militarist activity that is directed against the natural, historically justified course of events in the developing countries?

Imperialist politicians desire that the situation in those countries remains immutable and ossified. They would like the big transnational corporations, as before, to profit from the raw materials of those countries, they would like the Africans, Arabs and Asians to labor submissively for a pittance, and the white planters in Africa or the medieval landlords in Asia to remain as tranquil and confident as they were decades ago.

Essentially, this is what is implied by the "stability" in the developing countries that is requested in the Western press. History has already proved that only those states that pursue a policy conforming with the requirements of the progress of their peoples can be genuiuely stable. But the attempts to artificially preserve obsolete orders--and especially to restore them--can in no way serve the cause of peace and genuine stability.

Meanwhile, it is precisely on this that "some people" are basing their calculations. About 10 years ago the well-known futurologist Herman Khan predicted that the per capita gross national product will be 40(!) times greater in the United States than in an Asian country like India in the year 2000. It might be thought that the peoples of Asia or Africa are prepared to reconcile themselves to such a cheerless prospect! In recent years, these countries have convincingly demonstrated determination to end the inequality that is inseparable from social oppression. But the imperialist circles are incapable of finding any other answer than by attempting to halt the imminent social and political changes in Third World countries. This is apparent in Angola, where South African interventionists have once again intruded, and is also evident in the urge to bleed revolutionary Ethiopia white and dismember it. Allegations about the notorious "Soviet expansion" are always used to justify any actions directed against peoples who are determining their own destiny.

So the "conditioned reflex," which is inherent in the the reactionary Western press, is by no means a harmless reflex. It is easy to discern this dangerous reflex between the lines of a whole series of articles that have appeared in the Western newspaper in connection with the events in Afghanistan. The London DAILY TELEGRAPH, which is renowned for its yearning for the "imperial traditions," bluntly attempted to intimidate the new Afghan regime with a "countercoup."

While the FINANCIAL TIMES admitted, for the sake of objectivity, that the population of Kabul "is truly glad at the change of government," and that "the tanks had been decorated with garlands of flowers," it immediately slipped in a dose of venom by ominously predicting a "bloodbath."

It must, however, be hoped that responsible politicans in the West, and not only in the West, will find sufficient intelligence not to surrender to inflammatory appeals, wherever they may originate.

ECONOMIC, TRADE CONTRACTS STRENGTHEN USSR-AFGHAN TIES

LD251125Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 May 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent V. Baykov dispatch: "Strengthening Good-neighborliness"]

[Text] Kabul, 23 May--A number of contracts envisaging the further expansion of Soviet-Afghan economic, technical and trade cooperation have been signed in Kabul between Soviet foreign economic and trade organizations and ministries of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The largest contracts plan the construction of a mining, enriching and copper plant on the extremely rich copper ore deposits in (Aynak), an increase in the capacities of the power station in Mazar-i-Sharif, the supply of equipment to expand the FRF prospecting work for oil, gas and other minerals and an increase in the purchases of various goods from the Soviet Union.

These projects, the local press notes, will contribute to the general increase in Afghanistan's production forces and will strengthen still more the country's friendly relations with the USSR.

Relying on friendship and equal cooperation with the Soviet Union, the Afghan people are being assisted to develop and strengthen their motherland's economic potential and to advance confidently along the path of building a new life.

TITOV GREETS SRV-USSR FRIENDSHIP GROUP ON ANNIVERSARY

OW250621Y Moscow in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1300 GMT 23 May 78 OW

[Text] Today, the Soviet people are celebrating the 28th anniversary of the founding of the Vietnam-Soviet Friendship Association [VSFA]. On this occasion, Cosmonaut German Titov, chairman of the Soviet-Vietnam Friendship Society [SVFS] Central Committee, Soviet Hero and Hero of the SRV, made the following statement:

Dear Vietnamese friends and comrade cadres of the VSFA: On the occasion of the founding anniversary of the VSFA, on behalf of the SVFS and of all the Soviet people, I convey to you our sincere greetings and hearty salutations.

Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium stated: The Soviet people know well and highly value the VSFA's activities which contribute greatly to the noble task of consolidating the fraternal friendship and broad cooperation between the peoples of our two countries.

Comrade Titov stressed: The Soviet people know that in their activities, the cadres of the VSFA have always complied with President Ho Chi Minh's desire to strengthen friendship with the Soviet Union. The great son of Vietnam considered this friendship a guarantee for achieving success in the Vietnamese revolution.

We know that the VSFA has done great work in relation to the 60th anniversary of the great October Revolution. On that occasion, as a member of the SVFS delegation, I visited your country. Everywhere in Vietnam, in Hanoi as well as in Ho Chi Minh City and in all the provinces we visited, we were deeply impressed by our Vietnamese friends's sincere affection for the Soviet country and people. Everywhere we had the opportunity to witness the diverse and tireless activities carried out by the VSFA cadres to strengthen the fraternal friendship between the peoples of our two countries. We are celebrating the 28th anniversary of the VSFA at a memorable time. The recent Fourth VGFTU Congress reasserted that the Vietnamese working people are determined to satisfactorily implement all the tasks set forth by the VCP. May I add that I am very pleased to learn that many comrade delegates to this congress have actively participated in VSFA activities. The Soviet people are pleased to learn the new labor achievements scored by the builders of Socialist Vietnam. On this occasion, we extend our congratulations to you and hope that you will record even greater achievements. Our friendship and cooperation constitutes a steady basis for scoring new achievements.

The Soviet Union is continuing to expand its cooperation with and assistance to Vietnam in the economic, scientific and technical fields. Everywhere in the Soviet Union, factories are filling Vietnam's orders for goods. Ships are transporting foreign aid goods to Vietnam. In the universities Vietnamese students are studying, and members of the SVFS are actively participating in the society's activities. The VSFA and SVFS are closely bound together because [words indistinct]. They have the same noble objectives and tasks.

Today, on the 28th anniversary of the VSFA, the SVFS members once again assure you that they are determined to continue their positive participation in the noble work of supporting Vietnam.

PRC PROMOTES JAPAN'S MILITARISM DURING GENERALS' VISIT

OW250525Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1400 GMT 24 May 78 OW

[Text] China is promoting the revival of Japanese militarism by trying to expand military talks with Japan. This is well illustrated by Chinese Vice Defense Minister Su Yu's comments during a discussion with a group of retired Japanese generals now visiting Peking. According to KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Su Yu praised the retired generals for their contribution to Japan's military buildup and welcomed not only Japan's retired generals but he also encouraged active high-level officers to visit China.

Japanese newspapers carried reports on the retired generals' visit and on their talks in China. The papers noted that until recently Peking had criticized the revival of Japanese militarism, Japan's military buildup, and the Japan-U.S. security treaty.

LDP LEADERS ASK RESOLUTION OF ISSUES BEFORE JAPAN-PRC TALKS

LD251730Y Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, May 25, TASS--Acute debates are continuing in Japan in connection with the talks to conclude a Sino-Japanese treaty. Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda's statement on the intention to reopen the talks was countered actively by the cabinet members and prominent leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party who call for a more prudent approach to the question of concluding a treaty with China. These political figures are warning against the conclusion of the treaty on an anti-Soviet basis with the inclusion of a clause providing for "joint actions against hegemony" on which Peking insists, having in view actions against the Soviet Union. The newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN writes that during a meeting of the cabinet several ministers have opposed the hasty reopening of the talks with China.

Minister of Justice Setoyama, Minister of Education Sunada, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Nakagawa and other stressed in this connection the need for a very cautious approach towards the problems touched upon by the treaty, and declared that the government should not hurry with the resumption of the talks with Peking.

Nakao and other prominent Liberal Democrats, the newspaper TOKYO SHIMBUN writes, stated at a press conference in Tokyo that until such salient problems as the inclusion in the treaty of the "hegemony" clause, manifestations of Chinese "hegemonism" towards Japan and several others are solved, no consent could be given to the resumption of the talks on the conclusion of this treaty. Member of parliament Hamada said that Japan's vital interests would be damaged without doubt if these considerations were ignored.

JAPAN SERVES AS U.S. 'MIDDLEMAN' IN TIES WITH ASEAN

LD251654Y Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 25, TASS--TASS news analyst Vasiliy Kharkov writes: The minister of foreign trade and industry of Japan, Toshio Komoto, made a journey to a number of Southeast Asian countries. Speaking in Jakarta, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur, he stressed Japan's striving to "considerably expand economic cooperation with the ASEAN."

The Japanese minister promised these countries to increase investments, loans and subsidies, provided they create at home "appropriate conditions, favouring the development of economic ties." In other words, the ASEAN countries are asked to create "favourable conditions" for a new stage of Japanese economic and commercial penetration into that area.

The scale of this expansion can be seen from the following figures. By the beginning of this year the sum total of Japanese investments in ASEAN countries was 4,389 million dollars, or 20.6 percent of all Japan's foreign investments. Last year Japan exported 7 billion dollars' worth of commodities to ASEAN countries.

But Toshio Komoto's mission, judging by his remarks, was not limited to questions of bilateral relations between Japan and the ASEAN countries. The Japanese minister assumed also the role of a kind of middleman between these countries and the USA. Not only did he seek to prevail upon the ASEAN participants the idea of the profitability of "broad ties" with the USA, but made it clear that the Japanese side will encourage such ties in every way.

It is no secret that Washington is staking largely on Japan for the realization of its new "Asian doctrine," which pursues obviously neocolonialist goals. At a meeting held early in May, [between] U.S. President James Carter and Japanese Premier Takeo Fukuda an understanding was reached about the precise roles these two countries are to play in Asia. Washington's statements about the continuation of the American military presence in the region and Tokyo's promises to expand economic cooperation with ASEAN countries pursue one and the same goal--to draw ASEAN countries every more firmly into the orbit of the USA's military-political and economic strategy, in which Japan is given an important role.

Despite the competitive struggles that go on between American and Japanese monopolies, they are bound by common interests in their approach to the area of the ASEAN member-countries. This is, first of all, the striving to retain it in the status of their raw material appendage. In this matter, too, U.S. capital is quite willing to avail itself of the mediatory services of Japanese business. The activities by American and Japanese corporations result in the plundering of the natural resources of Southeast Asian countries and play havoc with their economy, infringe their sovereignty. Cheap labour, various privileges, gained by these corporations in a number of countries ensure them high profits. Lastly, the domination of foreign monpolies in the economy of Southeast Asia is frequently used as a lever for bringing political pressure to bear on these countries.

The broadening of the American-Japanese military alliance, the joint expansion of American and Japanese monopolies in Southeast Asia, are incompatible with the interests of its peoples who want to follow the road of genuine independence and progress.

ALIYEV COMMENTS ON LANGUAGE TEACHING IN AZERBAIJAN

LD251423Y Baku Bakinskiy Rabochiy in Russian 19 May 78 pp 2-3 LD

[Apparent text of speech by G.A. Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee, at 18 May Sixth Azerbaijan Teachers' Congress in Baku: "Teaching ideologically convinced and comprehensively developed builders of communism"]

[Excerpt] It is necessary to constantly improve the forms and methods of teaching one's own language and literature, to foster in children a love for words and exemplary thought, to show them the achievements of socialist culture within the country and within our republic and to acquaint them with classic works of Russian, world and Azerbaijani poetry and prose and outstanding works which are part of the golden repository of Soviet literature. A profound knowledge of one's own language, literature and culture is a constant feature of the educated person and a condition for the all-round personal development of the citizen of our society. (applause)

The Russian language is rightly an important factor of the appearance of a new historical community of people--the Soviet people--and a powerful means of international intercourse and cooperation among socialist nations and nationalities. Knowledge of the Russian language gives wide access to the treasure-houses of domestic and world culture and the modern achievements of science. And we are proud that the Russian language is the second language of every one of us. (tumultuous applause)

The dissemination of the Russian language, which is increasingly intensifying the eagerness of the younger generation and all the working people in the republic to master the Russian language, is an objective and law-governed process. In recent years, the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee and the republic's government have done much to improve the teaching of Russian in general education schools. Study of Russian now commences in the first grade. The number of school hours allotted for the study of Russian has been increased in all grades and in a number of schools study in depth of the Russian language in accordance with special programs has been introduced. Some 10,000 teachers teach Russian in our schools. The Azerbaijan M.F. Akhundov Pedagogical Institute for Russian Language and Literature has been created in order to train highly qualified cadres.

However, not all is well everywhere with the organization of Russian language teaching. In some schools, particularly rural schools, the standard of teaching is poor and during lessons proper attention is not paid to developing oral speech habits or practically consolidating material which has been covered. In certain collectives, insufficient work is being done on improving Russian language teaching. As result, as is known, some rural school-leavers and sometimes city school-leavers have a poor command of the Russian language.

The 29th Azerbaijan CP Congress defined the study and propagandization of the Russian language as an important task for schools and the entire population of the republic. Fulfilling this task, displaying the maximum responsibility for and attention toward the teaching of Russian and skillfully and effectively using every opportunity to deepen the study of it is the honorable duty of every teacher. (tumultuous applause)

MOSKVIN COMMENTS ON REACTION TO TBILISI TRIAL

LD250850Y Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2100 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Marad Kostava and Zviad Gamsakhurdia pleaded guilty last week to charges of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. Here now is a commentary by our observer Viktor Moskvin. This is what he writes:

Last Friday, Zviad Gamaskhurdia appeared on Soviet television and he declared that he sincerely regretted his anti-Soviet activities. [Gamsakhurdia--begin recording, fading to English translation] I have been guilty of acting to weaken Soviet power from 1974 until I was arrested on 7th April 1977. [end recording]

Now, two things become obvious at this point. In the first place, Zviad Gamsakhurdia was described in the West as the founder of the Georgian branch of the so-called Helsinki group to monitor Soviet compliance with the provisions of the final act of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation. The conference opened late in May 1975. Now, according to Gamsakhurdia, he had established contacts with foreign diplomatic officials only a year before the Helsinki conference. This means that the idea to set up a monitoring group was suggested to Gamsakhurdia and his associates in order to lend at least a semblance of international status for their anti-Soviet activities. The noble cause of cooperation in Europe and pledges of noninterference by all the signatories to the final act, the United States included, were deliberately ignored. And in the second place, it is surprising that not a single responsible American news outlet has ever doubted the legitimacy of the introduction of anti-Soviet literature into the USSR in exchange for concoctions about the Soviet system by the so-called dissidents. Now this country has laws pertaining to such things and those laws must be observed no matter whether they are liked or not.

Incidentally, any customs official in the United States will assure you that smuggling of what is described in America as communist propaganda materials into the United States is not encouraged either, to put it mildly, to say nothing of reprinting, duplicating and distributing them later with the purpose of denigrating the American political system. However, this is precisely what Kostava and Gamaskhurdia were doing to their country, with the assistance of foreign diplomatic officials.

Speaking on Soviet television, Zviad Gamsakhurdia also admitted this. [Gamsakhurdia--begin recording, fading to English translation] The materials I wrote were then clandestinely distributed in the USSR and were published in the foreign press and broadcast by foreign radio stations. As a result, I gain popularity and this popularity further stimulated my anti-Soviet activities. [end recording]

Now, this line about the build-up of popularity is very significant. It enables us to understand the technique employed by the United States mass media to cushion the self-styled dissidents from punishment within the USSR and at the same time to prejudice the American public against the outcome of a legitimate, legal prosecution of those lawbreakers. Long before their guilt is established by a Soviet court these people receive mass coverage as heroes and martyrs. In this way, the American public is brainwashed and its sentiments are then exploited by politicians to advance their political objectives.

And again, when it comes to the United States; such a technique of untimely and excessive exposure of a legal case in the press is frowned upon by American lawyers. They are definitely against any attempts to sway the opinion of the jury. They find such a thing unethical; to say the least, but then, when it comes to the USSR, its laws and traditions, apparently this can be ignored. Perhaps this is explained by the double standards that the United States administration and the mass media apply to domestic developments in the field of human rights and those abroad. The White House reaction to the outcome of the trials in Moscow and Tbilisi has shown one thing about the United States administration, namely: it is consistent in applying those double standards in foreign policy issues, as well as in its human rights efforts.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia's appearance on Soviet television undoubtedly has discredited attempts made by those quarters in the United States which intend to use lawbreakers for the psychological warfare against this country. It is quite a fiasco for them to see a man formerly portrayed as a hero and a freedom-fighter openly admit that he was smearing his motherland and had ties with Western correspondents and diplomatic officials with CIA connections. Now, are these American newspapers and radio stations which published and broadcast materials by Zviad Gamsakhurdia going to apologize to their consumers? Now that he has openly admitted that he was guilty of crimes, will a single American newspaper say that it misled its readers by publishing Gamsakhurdia's fabrications?

Concluding his television statement, Zviad Gamsakhurdia said this: [Gamsakhurdia--begin recording, fading to English translation] Therefore, I have decided to break with my past and after having served my prison term to devote myself entirely to scientific and literary works and to become useful to my people in these fields. [end recording]

SHCHERBITSKIY ATTENDS OBKOM PLENUM IN ZHITOMIR

AU2411037Y Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 24 May 78 AU

[Text] An obkom plenum in Zhitomir yesterday discussed a report by the obkom bureau on organizational and political measures taken to carry out the decisions of 25th CPSU and Ukrainian Communist Party congresses. The report was delivered by Comrade Yamchinskiy, obkom second secretary.

The plenum also examined an organizational issue. In connection with his retirement, Comrade Terekhov was relieved of the duties of obkom first secretary and obkom bureau member. Comrade Kavun, hitherto Vinnitskiy Oblispolkom chairman, was elected Zhitomirskiy Obkom first secretary and obkom bureau member.

Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian CP Central Committee first secretary, attended the obkom proceedings and delivered a speech.

BRIEFS

AWARD TO WRITER--By decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, for his services to the development of Soviet literature and in connection with his 70th birthday, the writer Aleksey Nikolayevich Arbuzov has been awarded the Order of Labor Red Banner. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 25 May 78 LD]

WEATHER, CROP DEVELOPMENTS IN MID-MAY REPORTED

LD261029Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 May 78 p 1 LD

[Agrometeorologist K. Kirilicheva report: "The Weather and the Crops"]

[Excerpt] In the northern half of the European part of the USSR the weather was cool and wet at the beginning of the second 10-day period of May. Then the weather became warmer and the rain stopped. The daytime air temperature rose to 20-25 degrees in the Baltic republics and North-West, Central and Volga-Vyatka regions. Conditions for tilling the soil and sowing agricultural crops were favorable.

In Belorussia, the Ukraine and Moldavia the average air temperature was 3-5 degrees lower than normal. Frosts (minus 1-4 degrees on the surface of the soil) were noted in northern Moldavia, the western and northern oblasts of the Ukraine and in Belorussia. In the Central-Chernozem Region and the North Caucasus the average air temperature was 1-2 degrees lower than the average for the time of year.

The heaviest rainfalls (25-50 mm and in a number of regions 70-100 mm over the 10-day period) occurred in the Ukraine and Belorussia (apart from the western regions of these republics), in Moldavia, the Central-Chernozem Region, the North Caucasus and the Volga Region south of Saratov. In the regions on the left bank of the Volga, in the central Volga Region and in the southern Urals the weather was warm and mainly dry.

In the second 10-day period in May vegetation regenerated on the winter rye in regions north of a line running through Leningrad, Vologda and Kirov. During the same period winter wheat formed ears in the autonomous republics of the North Caucasus, Krasnodarskiy Kray, the lower Volga Region and in places in the southern Ukraine, while the third leaf has formed on corn sown early. Rice shoots have appeared in Krasnodarskiy Kray, Rostovskaya Oblast and the southern Ukraine.

On 20 May the northern border of early spring grain crops shoots passed along a line running through Riga, Yaroslavl, Yoshkar-Ola and Ufa. Stalk growth has been observed on these crops in the Ukraine, apart from the northwest regions, the North Caucasus and the Volga Region south of Volgograd.

Sugar beet in the Central-Chernozem Region and western Ukraine was at the stage of shooting and the formation of the first pair of real leaves. In the remaining beet-sowing regions of the Ukraine the second pair of real leaves has formed. On early plantations in Krasnodarskiy and Stavropolskiy beet crowns have grown together in the drill rows.

Stalk growth has begun on the long-staple flax in the flax-sowing regions of the Ukraine. In Belorussia and the flax-sowing oblasts of the RSFSR the flax sown at the end of April and the beginning of May has sprouted.

The sown cereal grass has formed ears south of a line running through Vinnitsa, Chernigov, Orel, Saransk and Uralsk. Their height at the beginning of the ear formation was 30-40m.

In Siberia (from the Urals to Lake Baykal) and the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan the temperature fell particularly during the second half of the 10-day period. The average air temperature was 2-5 degrees lower than the annual average. Frosts were noted everywhere.

The weather was warm in the Transbaykal region and the Far East.

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL DISCUSS BREZHNEV'S BOOKS

LD251433Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 May 78 p 2 LD

[Unattributed report: "A Mighty Ideological Weapon"]

[Excerpt] Marshal of the Soviet Union K. Moskalenko, USSR deputy defense minister, spoke at a scientific and practical conference on the books of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev which was held in the USSR Defense Ministry Main Inspectorate. He stressed the tremendous role of "Malaya Zemlya" and "Rebirth" for generals and officers in mastering a Leninist style of work in resolving practical tasks.

A scientific and practical conference of leading personnel of the Moscow Military District has been held, which discussed the significance of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's books "Malaya Zemlya" and "Rebirth" in improving the leadership of troops in modern conditions.

The tremendous experience of party political work set out in the books was examined in detail in the speeches of Army General V. Govorov, commander of troops of the district, Lt Gen L. Kuznetsov, Lt Gen A. Bezotosov, Maj Gen V. Dolgov, V. Shchepanskiy, former party organizer of the All-Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) Central Committee at the F.E. Dzerzhinskiy Plant in the city of Dneprodzerzhinsk, S. Pakhomov, former chief of the propaganda and agitation section of the 18th Army political section, and others.

V. Konotop, first secretary of the Moskovskaya CPSU Obkom, took part in the work of the conference.

During the discussion of the book "Malaya Zemlya" in the headquarters of the Baltic Fleet a report on the military theoretical aspects of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's reminiscences of the front was made by Vice Admiral A. Kalinin, chief of staff of the fleet. Stories about the battles for Novorossiysk were told by Hero of the Soviet Union Vice Admiral V. Pilipenko and Reserve Rear Adm G. Bondar.

ANTISUBMARINE SHIP'S MEDITERRANEAN EXERCISE NOTED

LD250935Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 May 78 p 1 LD

[Report by Engineer Cmdr A. Kontiyevskiy, correspondent: "The 'Kerch' Attacks"]

[Excerpts] The long voyage of the big antisubmarine ship "Kerch" has been continuing for several months now in the Mediterranean, where fresh, frequently cold winds blowing from North Europe or Asia constantly alternate with the warm breath of Africa.

The "Kerch" recently carried out a training search for an "enemy" submarine. On that day the warm, calm weather was unexpectedly replaced by a storm. The "enemy" made nonstandard maneuvers, using deceptive tricks. But the "Kerch's" crew were undismayed by the sudden complication in the hydrometeorological and tactical situation. The sailors, tempered in winter voyages, stanchly stood watch, confidently attended the equipment, and kept their weapons constantly ready for action.

Cmdr Yu. Gusev, in command of the ship, carefully analyzed the reports on the maneuvering of the target and made a bold tactical decision. The entire crew, especially the ship's ASW team, operated harmoniously, skillfully and energetically. The commander's plan was precisely implemented. An accurate bomb strike at the target ended the duel.

The "Kerch's" long voyage in the Mediterranean is continuing.

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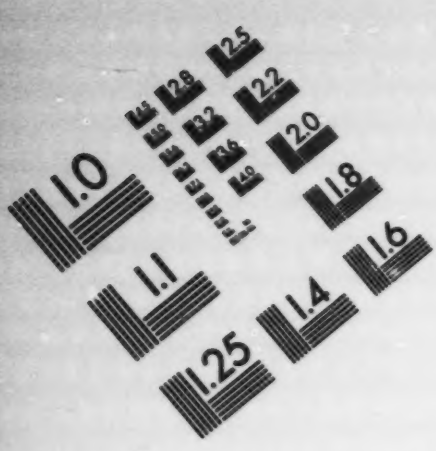

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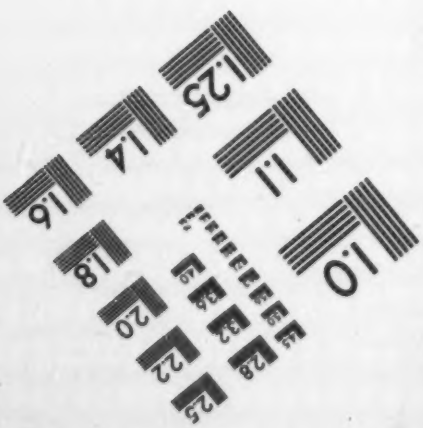

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